GENERAL

F.O.
371

1944

File No. 16

44. 5043 - 7471

CLOSED
UNTIL
1972

42729

SUPPLIED
FOR THE
PUBLIC SERVICE

58

1944

GENERAL

REFUGEES

W 5043

1 APR 1944

2

Registry Number W 5043/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Ambassador to the Netherlands

No. 51

Dated 31st Mar: 1944.

Received in Registry 1st April, 1944.

W: Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft declaration on refugees

Refers to Foreign Office letter of the 29th March (W 4731/16/48).

Transmits copy of his letter of the 31st March to the Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs giving amendment to His Majesty's Governments draft declaration.

Last Paper.

W 5032

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

X A. Walker
3/4

A.W.R.
3/4

42729

(Action completed.)

M.H. 12/4/44 (Index.)

Next Paper.

W 5066

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 51

W 8043

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.,S.F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British....Embassy..to..the Netherlands,
...3,...Cleveland..Row,
.....St.James's, S.W. 1.
March 31st....., 1944...

Reference to previous correspondence:
Mr. Randall's letter to Sir N.Bland, March 29th 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Ministry for Foreign Affairs, March 31st	Crimes against Jews.

APR 1944
F.O. REGISTRY

March 31st 1944.

No.26.
Immediate.

Your Excellency,

With reference to my note No.25 of March 30th, I have the honour, by direction of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to inform you that after the word "belief" in the first paragraph of the draft declaration regarding Nazi persecution it is proposed to insert the sentence: "The persecution of the Jews has in particular been of unexampled horror and intensity."

2. As there is heavy Parliamentary and other pressure to make this statement without delay His Majesty's Government propose to do so at the beginning of next week with an appropriate introductory explanation, and will assume general Allied Governments agreement unless they hear to the contrary in the meanwhile.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration,

(Signed) Neville Bland.

His Excellency
Dr. E. van Kleffens,
Netherland Minister for Foreign Affairs.

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

1944

SG

1944

GENERAL

REFUGEES

W 5044

1944

5

Registry Number W 5044/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Ambassador to Belgium

No. 44.

Dated 30th Mar:1944.

Received in Registry 1st April, 1944.

W: Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft declaration on refugees

Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 52 of the 28th March (W 4731/16/48).

Transmits copy of his Note No. 20 of the 30th March communicating the above.

Last Paper.

W5043

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

If action

X
A. Walker
3/4.

Ann R.
3/4

(Action completed.)

3/4

m.H. (Index.)
12/4/44

Next Paper.

W5119.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 44 /

Refs. 6

HIS Majesty's Ambassador to Belgium, presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British..Embassy...t.o..Belgium,
.....45..Lowndes...Square,
.....S.W.1.

.3.0.March....., 194.4..

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O.despatch No. 52 (W 4731/16/48) of 28 March, 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 20 of March 30th to Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.	Draft statement on illtreatment of Jews and other victims of prosecution at hands of Germany and her satellites.

W 5044

APR 1944

F.O. REGISTRY

Enclosure to Sir L. Oliphant's despatch No. 44 of March 30, 1944.

1

No. 20

(27/3/44)

BRITISH EMBASSY TO BELGIUM,

45 LOWNDES SQUARE, S.W.1.

30 March, 1944.

Monsieur le Ministre,

Your Excellency's attention will doubtless have been drawn to the declaration issued by the President of the United States on the 24th March conveying a warning to the German Government that outrages committed on their instructions against Jews will be suitably punished after the war. Prior to the issue of this declaration His Majesty's Government had been in contact with the United States Government with a view to arranging that the declaration should be a joint Anglo-American-Soviet document or at least Anglo-American; but President Roosevelt had decided to issue his statement independently. Since, however, it is clear that His Majesty's Government must be associated with a statement of general refugee policy of this character, the enclosed draft statement has been drawn up, from which it will be seen that His Majesty's Government reaffirm their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, though at the same time suggesting that good behaviour on the part of the latter or their officials may mitigate eventual retribution.

Under instructions from His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that this statement has been communicated to the Soviet Government for their concurrence. Should, however, such concurrence not be forthcoming in the near future, His Majesty's Government would propose to proceed with publication without delay.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur le Ministre, to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Lancelot Oliphant.

His Excellency
Monsieur P.H. Spaak, G.C.M.G.,
etc., etc., etc.

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

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6S

GENERAL

1944

REFUGEES

W 5119

3 APR 1944

8

Registry Number W 5119/16/48.

FROM Foreign Office

Minute (Mr. Randall).

No.

Dated

Received in Registry 3rd Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

War Refugee Board.

Draft Vicomte de Lantsheere (Belgian Embassy) enclosing copy of statement made by Secretary of State in House of Commons on 9th February welcoming the formation of the War Refugee Board.

Last Paper.

W5044

(*Minutes.*)

See within

A. Walker

AD

5/4

References.

(*Print.*)

See within
Letter from V. de. Lantsheere. (Belgian Emb.)
to Mr. Walker of. 5/4.

H. L. H.

12/4.

(*How disposed of.*)

Vic Vicomte de Lantsheere (Belgian Emb) from Mr Walker

Apn. 3

(Action completed.)

A D
5/4
12/4

(Index.)

M. H. 12/4/44

Next Paper.

W5120

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

Enter 9

Registry
No. W5119/16/48

E.A.W.

Draft. AS.

Vicomte de
Lantsheere,
Belgian Embassy.

(from Mr. Walker)

/

OUT FILE
W 5119

FOREIGN OFFICE (Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's, S.W.1.

3. April, 1944.

Dear de Lantsheere

With reference to our conversation on the 30th March, I enclose herein for your information copy of the statement which was made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State on the 9th February welcoming the formation of the War Refugee Board.

Ansk.

(E R Walker)
Yours sincerely.
Sgd E R Walker.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN. TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

OUT FILE

10

FOREIGN OFFICE (Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's, S.W.1.
3rd April, 1944.

No. W 5119/16/48.

Dear de Lantsheere,

With reference to our conversation on the 30th March, I enclose herein for your information copy of the statement which was made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State on the 9th February welcoming the formation of the War Refugee Board.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd. E.A. Walker.

(E.A. Walker).

Vicomte de Lantsheere, C.V.O.,
Belgian Embassy,
103, Eaton Square, S.W.1.

Copy.
(W 5119/16/48).

WAR REFUGEES (RELIEF MEASURES).

2. MR. LIPSON asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if his attention has been drawn to the decision of President Roosevelt to appoint a War Refugee Board to frame plans and inaugurate measures for the rescue, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression and the establishment of havens of temporary refuge; and will he consider the advisability of setting up a similar board in this country to co-operate with the one in U.S.A.

MR. EDEN: Yes, Sir. I am informed that President Roosevelt has established a War Refugee Board, consisting of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. The object of the Board, stated in the President's Executive Order, is to take all measures to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war. This is an aim in the pursuit of which, within the same unavoidable limitations, His Majesty's Government have for some considerable time past been closely co-operating with the Government of the United States, and I am happy to take this opportunity of re-affirming His Majesty's Government's earnest desire and practical intention of associating themselves with the United States Government and with the War Refugee Board, in particular in endeavouring to carry out the aims which the President has set before it. In this country the primary responsibility for refugee questions rests with the Foreign Office which acts in close co-operation with the other Departments concerned, particularly the Home Office and the Colonial Office. As the House has already been informed, a Cabinet Committee on Refugees was set up some time ago and comprises the Ministers in charge of the Departments principally concerned. It is not considered necessary to set up any additional organisation, and in so far as international action is concerned, it is to be noted that the President's Executive Order speaks of using existing international organisations, in particular U.N.R.R.A. and the inter-Governmental Refugee Committee. This is also the policy which His Majesty's Government is fully determined to follow.

MR. LIPSON: Can my right hon. Friend say whether the machinery for this purpose, which has been set up by the Government is, in his opinion, really as effective as that created by the President of the United States, in view of the fact that this American Board has a director with special responsibilities in the matter, who is able to get into touch with the diplomatic representatives of foreign countries?

MR. EDEN: We think so but, of course, each country has its own particular method.

/MISS RATHBONE:

MISS RATHBONE: Can the right hon. Gentleman claim that a strictly private Cabinet Committee is at all equivalent to this American Board, with its carefully defined position, its frequent access to the President and its executive director? Will he not consider appointing somebody analogous to that board?

MR. EDEN: I have considered it. The hon. Lady knows our machinery perhaps better than anyone, and knows that this War Cabinet Committee has a responsibility to the Foreign Office. We think that, on the whole, that is the best way.

INDEXED

Put with No. 12

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE

103, Eaton Square,
LONDON, S.W.1.

April 5th, 1944.

W 5119 / 16 / 48
7 APR. 1944

Dear Walker,

I have received your letter n° W 5119/16/48 of April 3rd, by which you kindly sent me a copy of the statement which was made in the House of Commons by the Secretary of State on February 9th welcoming the formation of the War Refugee Board.

I am very grateful to you for letting me have this copy.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely

T. d'Ursel

E.A. Walker, Esq.

File Number :—

W a

GENERAL.

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REFUGEES

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GENERAL

REFUGEES

W 5120

3 APR 1944

Registry Number } W 5120/16/48.

FROM Mr. Bucknell. (United States Embassy)
TO Mr. Randall.

Dated 30th Mar. 1944.

Received in Registry } 3rd Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

Activities of the War Refugee Board.

Transmits information concerning remittances of funds and similar transactions which have been authorised, as relief and specific rescue projects, in pursuance of recommendations by the WarRefugee Board.

Last Paper.

W 5119

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Copy { Treasury (Mr. Pehle)
T.W.E.D. (Mr. Henrique)
M.E.W. (Mrs. Crump)

The War Refugee Board have initiated a policy, which enhances in principle previous Anglo-American Blockade policy. We have made no protest and now await a reply to our tel. to Berne No 4064/16/48.

1. The permission of U.S. visas to Jewish children escaping to Switzerland is largely an empty gesture, as the children will not be able to use their visas until France is liberated and the visas are unnecessary.

2. This paragraph appears to have been written without taking into account the fact that the Germans have occupied Hungary.

3. It is not clear how far existing commercial /

(Action completed.) 23/5

(Index.) M.H. 3/8

Next Paper.

W 5190

commercial arrangements with neutral
countries are affected by this.

4. We wld. like to have any obs.
that For Ecctns Dept may care to offer.

Q. We wld. delay ~~Lam. L. Henderson~~ replying
to the U.S. Embassy until we hear the
fate of our protest in Wash.

Ian. L. Henderson
6/4

Comm. Dept. 19/4
Contraband Dept. 21/5
F.E.
Am 24/5

I fear that this letter from Mr. Bucknell is in effect a reply to representations which were made in our telegram at W 4064/16/48, and that the United States Government are unlikely to view with any favour our conservative and well-thought-out plan for a more effective "rescue" with less financial benefit to the enemy. I agree that we should await the United States Government's ~~reply~~, but in the meantime there are several points which are not very clear. For example, in paragraph 1(a) "a license has been issued" for "several thousand", and also 1(c) according to which the World Jewish Congress have worked out a programme to evacuate from Roumania, France, etc. This latter, however, may be and probably is the new ~~Riegner~~ plan referred to in Madrid telegram No. 494. This we strongly disapprove of because it is likely to mess up our under-cover arrangements for evacuating escaped prisoners of war, etc. from occupied France and elsewhere and we have therefore brought our views on the subject to the War Office (M.I.9).

Letter of

A. Walker

6th April, 1944.

Official comeback

Com. Div.
Contraband
6/4

W 5051/109/G

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

W.5120

AMERICAN EMBASSY

2c.

London, March 30, 1944

Dear Randall:

With reference to previous communications regarding the activities of the War Refugee Board, I wish to give you the following information concerning remittances of funds and similar transactions which have been authorized, as relief and specific rescue projects, in pursuance of recommendations by the War Refugee Board.

which?

A number of private organizations in the United States have been authorized to carry on in occupied Europe relief and evacuation operations. The Treasury Department, following the Board's recommendation, have issued licenses granting to the representatives in Switzerland of these organizations permission to finance, by the acquisition, if necessary from persons in enemy territory against payment in free exchange, of requisite local currency, their operations and to carry on such communications as may be necessary with persons in enemy territory. The Board, the State and the Treasury Departments have taken the position that the main consideration in those cases is the saving of lives and that this is paramount to the possibility that there may in enemy territory become available certain amounts of free exchange. Among the rescue and relief projects, execution of which the Board has facilitated and which private organizations have sponsored, are the following:

1. Evacuation from France to Switzerland.

(a) The evacuation of abandoned Jewish children. For one rescue program which involves abandoned children (numbering several thousand who may presently be deported to Poland) in hiding in France a license has been issued. Efforts are being made to keep alive and sustain these children in France but until some assurance is received by the Swiss Government that the children will be removed after the cessation of hostilities they cannot be brought in large numbers into Switzerland. The Board has proposed

that

Mr. A. W. G. Randall, O.B.E.,
The Foreign Office, S. W. 1.

that the United States Government give assurances to the Swiss Government that 4000 children from France entering Switzerland will be granted American visas and that renewals will be granted for these visas as may be necessary.

(b) Removal of scholars and political and Christian refugees. Steps have also been taken by the Board to facilitate the operations by several private organizations being carried out. These operations are designed to give relief to and rescue Christian and political refugees and scholars who have been unable to leave France. To make available funds in Switzerland to use in carrying out this program, licenses were issued on the recommendation of the Board by the Treasury.

(c) The World Jewish Congress' program. With the aid of the Board the World Jewish Congress has worked out a program to evacuate refugees from Rumania and France into North Africa, Spain and Switzerland. The Treasury Department has issued licenses authorizing the necessary operations up to a total cost of $100,000. Of this amount $25,000 has already been sent to Switzerland.

2. Evacuation from Poland to Hungary.

The War Refugee Board and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada have worked out a plan to evacuate Jews from Poland to Hungary. In Hungary, persons are reported to be in a position to aid refugees in crossing the Polish borders into Hungary where a large Jewish community was willing to aid and help the refugees to become absorbed into the economy of Hungary. The Union has been granted authorization to communicate with these persons and to transmit funds. $100,000 has been sent to Switzerland to meet the requirements of this plan.

3. Program for feeding internees in Czechoslovakia, Croatia, Rumania and Hungary.

The International Red Cross has informed the Intergovernmental Committee of an urgent need for funds to purchase foodstuffs for distribution to internees in Rumania, Croatia, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. $100,000 was provided at once by a large private organization in the United States after an approach made by the Board.

Under

Under a Treasury Department license to Switzerland, which permits the buying of the required food stuffs in neutral countries as well as in Rumania and Hungary, this sum has been remitted.

4. Plans for relief in Shanghai of refugees.

At the request of the Board, and pursuant to licenses granted by the Treasury Department to two private organizations, relief is being administered to 10,000 refugees stranded in Shanghai. Authorization is given by these licenses for the borrowing of funds, against a promise of reimbursement after the end of the war, in Shanghai.

Sincerely yours,

John Pehle

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

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GENERAL

1944

REFUGEES

W 5190

APR 1944

17

Registry Number } W 5190/16/48.

FROM Mr. Easterman
(World Jewish Congress)

No. ALE/HL/61-80.

Dated 31st Mar. 1944.

Received in Registry } 4th Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's warning to satellite countries on the persecution of the Jews.

Expresses appreciation of the statement made by Secretary of State in House of Commons on 30th March.

Last Paper.

W 5120

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Dft to Mr Easterman
From P/S
A/P.N. 13.

(Minutes.)

? No action Pt Agreement necessary.

Mr. Law. D.M. 5/4.

Ian L. Henderson 5/4

Private Secretary

A Duff Cooper
5/4

Copy to Washington

A.W.

D.M.R. 5/4:

I should have thought that there is no objection, & they should have a brief letter of thanks on the P/S's behalf.

E.E.M. 6/4

Dft.

Ian L. Henderson

6/4

Mr Mikeland. Sent 7/4.

J. L. H.

12/4

(Action completed.)

D 14/4

M.H. (Index.) 25/4/44

Next Paper.

W 5191

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS.
EUROPEAN DIVISION.

CONGRESS HOUSE,
55, NEW CAVENDISH STREET,
LONDON, W.1.
TELEPHONE: WELBECK 1314.

W. 5199
8 APR 1944

Refo 18

ALE/HL/61-80.

31st March, 1944.

The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.C., M.P.
H.M. Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

Sir,

The Executive Officers of the World Jewish Congress in London direct me to express to His Majesty's Government and to yourself their deep sense of appreciation of the Declaration which you made in the House of Commons yesterday with reference to the unabated extermination of European Jewry by the forces of Nazi Germany.

The Executive Officers are particularly gratified by your statement that His Majesty's Government are resolved in concert with the other Governments and private authorities concerned to rescue and maintain all those menaced by the Nazi tyranny.

The Executive Officers welcome most heartily the encouragement given by His Majesty's Government to those individuals and official authorities in occupied Europe who have given aid and shown mercy to the Jews faced with the perils of Nazi brutality. The surviving Jews in Europe will,

with their fellow sufferers at the hands of the Nazis, derive comfort and solace from the sympathy shown by His Majesty's Government in their hour of gravest trial.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

A.L. Easterman.

A.L. Easterman,
Political Secretary.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. W 5190/16/48

I.L.H.

Draft/ H.L.

Mr. Easterman, A.L.
World Jewish
Congress.

(for the ~~signature~~ of the ~~Secretary~~ of State)

from
Private Secretary

Mr. Millard first.

7/14.

OUT FILE

19

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

13 April, 1944.

Dear Li

I write on Mr Eden's behalf to

Thank you ~~very much~~ for your letter ALE/HL/61-80 of 31st March in which you ~~conveyed~~ to ~~me~~ the appreciation expressed by the Executive Officers of the World Jewish Congress of H.M.G.'s recent declaration regarding the persecution of European Jewry. ~~I should be obliged if~~ you would express to them my gratitude for their kind words and say that their letter ~~has been passed to our Refugee Department~~.

(G E Millard)
(sd) G. E. Millard

I. L. H.
12/4.

OUT FILE

20

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.

(W 5190/16/48) 13th April, 1944.

Dear Sir

I write on Mr. Eden's behalf to thank you for your letter ALE/HL/61-80 of the 31st March in which you were good enough to convey to him the appreciation expressed by the Executive Officers of the World Jewish Congress of His Majesty's Government's recent declaration regarding the persecution of European Jewry.

Yours truly
(sd) G.E. Millard

(G.E. Millard)

A.L. Easterman, Esq.,
World Jewish Congress,
Congress House,
55, New Cavendish Street,
W.1.

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

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GENERAL

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W. 5191

APR 1944

21

Registry Number W 5191/16/48.

FROM Telegraph Censorship Branch. (Communicated).

No.

Dated 28th Mar. 1944.

Received in Registry 31st Mar. 1944.

W: Refugees.

Message for Nahum Goldmann, American World Jewish Congress.

Communicates copy of telegram from Mr. Easterman (World Jewish Congress) to Nahum Goldmann (New York) being held pending decision as to its release. Requests that this be advised urgently.

Last Paper.

W 5190

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

W 5256.

(*Minutes.*)

Surely this PC will have been entered? I sent it back to Mr. Collenette.

Yth. 3/4

Yes Thanks

I.L.H.

5/4

They are sent to Genl Dept in the first instance who know the "drill" for handling them. They are sent to the Dept concerned who decide on whether they can be released or held & finally a copy is entered to the interesting Dept; in this case "Refugees"

We Secs

CB 6/4

I.L.H.

7/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

Refugee Depts 27.3 9 have telephoned

Refugee 9. release Pl. 30/3

HELD TELEGRAM FOR DECISION 31/3

H 5191
4 APR 1944
22

Held Office,
Telegraph Censorship Branch,
Room 22E,
23/27 Brooke Street, E.C.1.

Telephone No: CHANCERY 8866,
Ext. 120.

28 / 3 / 1944

FO

To.....

CC 581

Please advise as to release, quoting reference No.....
It would be appreciated if decisions could be telephoned as soon as possible.

23

REF HELD CC 581

COMMERCIAL CABLE COY. LONDON.

27TH MARCH 1944 52 XP41 PY LONDON

TO: NAHUM GOLDMANN 330 W.42ND ST. NEWYORK

FROM: ALEX EASTERMAN WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS.

NUMBER 220 ARE YOU MAKING STATEMENT FOLLOWING ROOSEVELTS DECLARATION IF SO PLEASE CABLE FULLY WHAT PROGRESS YOUR REPRESENTATIONS UNRRA STOP SUGGEST YOU REQUEST CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE BE SENT TITO ADVISE ASSIST POSSIBLE ENTRY REFUGEES FROM HUNGARY PLEASE CABLE QUICKLY FULLY THESE MATTERS

HELD S.E. For decision.

DG.

HELD TELEGRAM
AWAITING DECISION

Released 31/3.

FO 371/3

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

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GENERAL

1944

REFUGEES

W 5256

5 APR 1944

Registry Number } W 5256/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Ambassador to Belgium.

No. 45.

Dated 4th April 1944.

Received in Registry } 5th April 1944.

W : Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft declaration on refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 52 of 28th March (W 4731/16/48).

Transmits copy of Note No. 69. 500/PR/1/2 of 4th April on the above subject.

Last Paper.

W 5191

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

W 4/4

(Index.) m.H. 12/4/44

Next Paper.

W 5254

(Minutes.)

X
A10
7/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 45

Ref.

HIS Majesty's Ambassador to Belgium,
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British....Embassy...to..Belgium,

.....45..Lowndes..Square, S.W.1.

.....

.4..April....., 194.4.

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. despatch No. 52 (W 4731/16/48) of 28 March, 1944 and Mr. Randall's letter (W 4731/16/48) of March 29, 1944

W 5256

5 APR 1944

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 69.500/PR/I/2 of 4th April, 1944, from Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs.	Proposed declaration ref. illtreatment of Jewish and other victims in Germany and satellite countries.

Description of Enclosure.

5 APR 1944 F.O. REGISTRY

3479A 25019—2 (4)

Enclosure to Sir L. Oliphant's despatch No. 45 of April 4,1944.

Copie.

Royaume de Belgique
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

105 Eaton Square, S.W.1

London. 4 Apr. 1944.

C.
69.500/PR/I/2

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de l'office du 30 mars dernier, No. 20, par lequel Votre Excellence a bien voulu me communiquer le texte d'une déclaration que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique se propose de faire au sujet des mauvais traitement infligés par les Allemands, ou sur leurs instructions, aux Juifs et autres personnes se trouvant sous leur domination provisoire.

Je m'empresse de faire savoir à Votre Excellence que le Gouvernement belge approuve pleinement le texte de cette déclaration.

Je saisis cette occasion, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, de renouveler à Votre Excellence l'assurance de ma très haute considération.

LE MINISTRE:

(Signé) P.H. Spaak.

Son Excellence
Sir Lancelot Oliphant,
Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne
près le Gouvernement belge,
45 Lowndes Square. S.W.1.

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

1944

GENERAL

1944

REFUGEES

W 5257

8 APR 1944

27

Registry Number W 5257/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Ambassador to the Netherlands

No. 55.

Dated 4th April 1944.

Received in Registry 5th April 1944.

W : Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft declaration on refugees.

Refers to his despatch No. 51 of 31st March (W 5043/16/48).

Transmits copy of note of 4th April from Netherlands Ministry for Foreign Affairs on the above subject.

Last Paper.

W5256

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

X

A10

7/4

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

W 5495.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 55.

W 5257

28

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy to the Netherlands,
3, Cleveland Row,
St.James's, S.W. 1.

April 4th, 1944.

Reference to previous correspondence:

Sir N.Bland's desp.No.51 of March 31st.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
From Netherland Ministry for Foreign Affairs, April 4th.	German crimes against Jews, Draft declaration.

APR 5 XI XII I II III IV V VI VII VIII IX X
F.O. REGISTRY

Copy.

Netherland Foreign Office.
Division des Affaires Juridiques. le 4 avril 1944.

No.2224 G.A.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

Par une note en date du 30 mars dernier, sous le numéro 25, complétée par la note du 31 mars dernier, No.26, Votre Excellence a bien voulu me communiquer le texte d'une déclaration que le Gouvernement Britannique se propose de faire en ce qui concerne les persécutions dont les populations des territoires occupés et notamment la population juive, sont l'objet de la part de l'Allemagne.

En remerciant Votre Excellence de cette aimable communication, j'ai l'honneur de l'informer que le Gouvernement des Pays-Bas se rallie volontiers à ce texte.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, les assurances de ma très haute considération.

(Signé) E. van Kleffens.

Son Excellence
Sir Nevile Bland, K.C.V.O., C.M.G.
etc., etc., etc.

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

1944

66

1944

GENERAL

REFUGEES

W 5495

11 APR 1944

30

Registry Number W 5495/16/48.

FROM Mr. Easterman, (World Jewish Congress) to Mr. Law.

No. ALE/HL/61-80

Dated 31st Mar. 1944.

Received in Registry 11th Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

Situation of the Jewsin Europe.

Expresses appreciation of the delcaration made by Mr. Eden in the House of Commons on 30th March. Encloses copy of statement made by the World Jewish Congress in London, following the Declaration made on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

Last Paper.

W5254

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(Action completed.)

D 13/4

(Index.)

M.H. 25/4/44

Next Paper.

W5494

(*Minutes.*)

I. L. H.

13/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS.
EUROPEAN DIVISION.

CONGRESS HOUSE,
55, NEW CAVENDISH STREET,
LONDON, W.1.
TELEPHONE: WELBECK 1314.

Enta 31

Dch
Belgian Dept

ALE/HL/61-80.

31st March, 1944.

The Rt. Hon. Richard K. Law, P.C., M.P.
Minister of State,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

W 5495
11 APR 1944

Dear Mr. Law,

I have great pleasure, on behalf of the Executive Officers of the World Jewish Congress in London, in expressing their very warm appreciation of the Declaration by Mr. Eden in the House of Commons yesterday, with reference to the grave position of the Jews in Europe, and they wish me to thank you most cordially for ~~the~~ your sympathetic interest and earnest consideration which have been so important in making the declaration possible.

I take the liberty of sending you herewith the statement made by the World Jewish Congress in London following the Declaration made on behalf of His Majesty's Government.

Yours sincerely,

A.L. Easterman

A.L. Easterman,
Political Secretary.

Encl.

GOVERNMENT DECLARATION ON GERMAN PERSECUTION OF THE JEWS.

STATEMENT BY THE WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS IN LONDON.

The World Jewish Congress in London expresses its warm appreciation of the Declaration made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs on behalf of His Majesty's Government with reference to the continued extermination of European Jewry by the Nazis.

The Declaration, with that made by the President of the United States, comes at the moment when another great section of the fast-disappearing European Jewry is threatened by the overwhelming terror of Nazi ferocity directed against the Jews. The German occupation of Hungary places nearly 1,000,000 Jews at the mercy of the Germans.

The World Jewish Congress in London welcomes particularly the assurance that His Majesty's Government "are firmly resolved, in co-operation with all the Governments and private authorities concerned, to rescue and maintain all those menaced by the Nazi tyranny".

The need for extraordinary measures of rescue is of paramount urgency and the World Jewish Congress in London expresses its anxious hope that His Majesty's Government, in common with the Governments of the other Allied Powers, will follow the Declaration now made by expediting all existing opportunities of escape for Jews threatened by Nazi deportation and extermination and will extend and enlarge all available means of rescue.

The World Jewish Congress deeply appreciates His Majesty's Government's recognition and encouragement of those individuals and even official authorities in occupied Europe who have shown toleration and mercy towards the Jews and have resisted the evil German example. The Jewish people will be eternally grateful to those who have given and will give aid and sustenance to the sorely-afflicted Jews of Europe in their hour of gravest trial.

3)

3rd April,
1944.

Dear Mr. Easterman,

Thank you for your letter of the 31st March enclosing copy of the statement issued by the World Jewish Congress in London following the Declaration made by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the House of Commons on Thursday last, and also for your kind words.

I am passing this memorandum on to our Refugee Department here for their information.

Yours sincerely,

(SGD.) RICHARD LAW.

A.L. Easterman, Esq.

File Number:—

W 16

~~LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.~~

GENERAL.

REFUGEES
1944

66

1944

GENERAL

REFUGEES

W 5497

11 APR 1944

34

Registry Number W 5497/16/48

FROM Sir J. Grigg (War Office) to Mr. Law.

No.

Dated 4th April, 1944

Received in Registry 11th April, 1944.

General:Refugees.

Establishment of refugee camps in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 3rd April (W 4787/16/48). From whatever angle this proposal is viewed, it represents a diversion of effort in the Mediterranean. Considers that this view should be put to the Americans.

Last Paper.

(W4484)
W5497

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(*Minutes.*)

W. has no reason to assume that the Local Authorities would view a Jewish refugee camp in Tripolitania with any more suspicion and alarm than they [illegible] (Resident of Morocco) [illegible] the camp at Fedhala.

"External Jewish influence" would not be in the direction of permanently colonising Tripolitania - rather the contrary, since Zionist appeal to Palestine or the only declared destination for refugees.

Finally, the argument that the establishment of a camp would create a diversion from the war effort might be applied with equal force (or futility) to refugee camps almost anywhere.

However, I suggest there is nothing for it but to go back to the U.S. Embassy with this answer, and reply that if the War Refugee Board are still enthusiastic about the project,

DEL' Sir J Grigg from Whistler of State

HA. Mr. Duchell (U.S. Emb.) 22 May 1st. from Mr. Randall

DEL' Sir J Grigg from Whistler of State

May 4

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

M.H. 3/8

Next Paper.

W5551

project,
they might talk the matter up with the
Combined Staffs in W'tn.

Ian L. Henderson
12/4

In view of U.S. pressure
on us to extend the White Paper quota for
Palestine, & the general importance of
having alternatives, this & is a
most unhelpful letter, but I agree that
we can do no more than explain the
difficulties to Washington: but the War
Office shd... however, be pressed to
support us with the Combined Staffs. We
should explain the difficulty in a
draft tel. to Lord Halifax: & tell the
W.O. in sending them the draft for
concurrence, that we must ask that they
support us through the military channel,
as we do not share their political
objections. Please draft for

A.eK.
12/IV

Egyptian Dept.
concurrence.

Q Dft. for signature to U.S. Embassy
in Reply with W.O. tel. & our dft.
tel. to W'tn

Dfts. submitted.
Ian L. Henderson
12/4

A. Walker
13/4

After/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

After discussing the refugee problem yesterday with Mr. Wallace Murray of the State Department I am convinced that it will not do for us to go with a blank negative to the Americans based merely on the arguments put forward in Sir J. Grigg's letter. The fact is that President Roosevelt himself is behind this refugee policy, and it is an essential part of that policy, in which we are committed to co-operate as far as possible with the United States Government, that as many destinations for refugees shall be found as possible. We are being pressed to open Palestine beyond the White Paper limits as a temporary refuge. There are obvious objections to this and a far less objectionable alternative would be to agree with the Americans' offer of going equal shares in the establishing and maintenance of a camp in Tripolitania. The War Office political objections are, I believe, not shared by the Egyptian Department and the point about the Jewish pressure seems to me a very weak one. I, therefore, think the pros and cons should be laid before the War Cabinet before we return a negative to the Americans based on purely British operational reasons, which may or may not be approved by the American Chief of Staff, but even if they were, would, I think, not appeal to the President, from whom there is good reason to think the offer in Mr. Bucknell's letter of 27th March really proceeded. Pending the preparation of a memorandum for submission to the War Cabinet I submit an interim reply to Sir J. Grigg.

A.W.G. Randall

13th April, 1944.

Egyptian Dept.
M. Law.

Yes. Have added a bit to draft.
14.4

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Refugee Department

In the attached draft note for Cabinet we speak of the proposed refugee camp in Tripolitania being intended (a) to enable clearance of refugees from Spain, (b) to ease the pressure on Palestine, and (c) to meet a possible new influx from Yugoslavia.

In Palestine alone there are 27,000 vacant places under the unexpired White Paper quota, of which 18,000 have not yet been allotted.

It therefore comes as a terrific anti-climax when your draft note indicates that the camp is required for "a moderate number of persons estimated as from 1,000 to 1,500.

I fear this rather wrecks the paper as it stands. How do we get over it? Should we be right to say that this is the number of people for whom we have to provide <u>in the first instance</u>? If this is so we must certainly say it.

25th April 1944.

At this stage I think it would be best to commit ourselves to no definite number. When we originally suggested 1000, it was with the object of conciliating the War Office, but as they turned even this down I think we shd. put forward the position as on q principle.

Anty Rch
26/4

26.4.
I wd feel inclined to omit the

passage which I have bracketed on p 2.

29/4

We have received no reply to the letter from Mr Law to the S.of S. for War enclosing the note on the Finnish camps for circulation to the War Cabinet.

It is time that the matter should be settled, & submit a note for the S. of S. explaining the genesis of the note for the War Cabinet & a draft note from the Min to the D.C. circulating copy of the latter & the paper. If approved we can then make arrangements with Cabinet Offices & take the necessary action

A. Walker

1/5/5

Agreed.
15/V.

These drafts were submitted yesterday to-

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

1) PO Docs 2) Refugee Dept.
for obs. & ack.

Entered W 5497
11 APR 1944

WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

4th April, 1944.

Dear Dick.

I quite see your difficulties over the proposal to set up a refugee camp in Tripolitania, but the difficulties on our side are also very real and I am bound to say that in present circumstances I think they are more important. As a matter of fact I had been kept in touch with the correspondence between Bovenschen and Sargent and I had taken the trouble to satisfy myself that the "military authorities" were not just being obstructive.

The military arguments are so well-known to you by this time that there is no need for me to recapitulate them here, but there are one or two points I should like to stress. Whatever guarantees are given with regard to removal "when more suitable places can be found", there is not the slightest doubt that the present inhabitants

The Rt.Hon. R. Law, M.P.

would/

would regard the establishment of this camp with suspicion and alarm, and that means an additional security commitment for us at a time when we are already hard pressed to meet existing commitments in Palestine and elsewhere in the Middle East. Even if it were possible to keep the numbers of refugees within reasonable limits, a great deal of external Jewish influence will be brought to bear in the shape of offers by the Jewish Agency and other organisations to provide medical and other assistance and to have representatives on the spot, and I know from recent experience how difficult it is to withstand pressure of this kind. Moreover, the trouble would not be confined to the refugees. It is true that the indigenous Jewish population, which numbers at present some 25,000,

has/

WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
S.W.1.

has lived for generations in amicable relations with the Arabs but there is no telling what may happen if Zionist propagandists are planted among them.

However we look at this proposal, there is no getting away from the fact that it represents a diversion of effort in the Mediterranean at a time when all our resources should be directed towards the battle in Italy. I cannot think that the Americans or anybody else would wish us to ignore powerful operational considerations of this kind, and I hope you will feel able to support us in resisting further pressure at the present time.

Yours sincerely

P. J. Grigg

39

(W 5497/16/48).

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.
22nd April, 1944.

New P.S.

OUT FILE.

Thank you for your letter of the 4th April about the proposal to set up a refugee camp in Tripolitania. You will hardly be surprised to learn that in view of what seem to us to be the very cogent arguments in favour of establishing the camp which we have put forward in previous correspondence your reply is disappointing to us. Moreover, in view of the American interest in the project and also of the fact that it was only through the intervention of the President that the authorisation for the Tripoli camp's counterpart, namely the camp at Fedhala in Morocco, was finally secured, we feel obliged to consider putting it up for a decision by the War Cabinet as soon as possible; we do not feel that without such authority we could return a negative answer to a request which is clearly inspired by the President. In these circumstances we propose submitting to the War Cabinet a minute giving the pros and cons, and we will send you a copy of this in draft.

If we were in a position to announce the forthcoming establishment of the camp, it would in our judgment have a considerable effect in the United States where, however unjustly, we are being blamed for leaving Jews to their fate in Europe by our refusal to throw the gate of Palestine wide open.

Yours ever
(Signed) Richard Law

The Right Honourable
Sir James Grigg, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., M.P.

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INDEXED

Letter

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m. 9.

Pol V

VA 26 APR 1944
5494 16 48
EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London, April 24,1944.

W4484/16/48

Dear Randall:

In reference to my letter of March 27, the War Refugee Board has asked the Embassy to ascertain from the British authorities when a reply may be expected to the proposal to establish havens for refugees in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania.

Sincerely yours,

John Pehle Jr.

Mr. A. W. G. Randall, O.B.E.,
The Foreign Office,
London, S. W. 1.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry No. 5497/11/40

E. A. D.

Draft. Mr H.

Buckwell

U.S. Embassy,

(from Mr Randall)

OUT FILE

-941

April.

1st May 1940

Dear Buckwell

Thanks for your letter of the 24th April about the ~~Tripoli~~ project for the establishment of refugee camps in Cyrenaica & Tripolitania. ~~The matter~~ The position is that the matter is receiving careful study, the result of which I hope to be able to communicate to you & the ~~Committee~~ Near

42

UT FILE

FOREIGN OFFICE,
S.W.1.
1st May, 1944.

No. W 5497/16/48.

Dear Bucknell.

Thank you for your letter of the 24th April about the project for the establishment of refugee camps in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The position is that the matter is receiving careful study, the result of which I hope to be able to communicate to you in the near future.

Yours sincerely
(Sd.) A. W. G. RANDALL.

(A.W.G. Randall).

Mr. Howard Bucknell, Jr.,
United States Embassy,
1, Grosvenor Square, W.1.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. W 5497/16/48

E.A.W.

Draft.

Sir J. Grigg.

(for the signature of the Minister of State)

Eastern Department. 25/4

Egyptian Department

Mr. Law.

Private Secretary.

A.W.R.

OUT FILE

43

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

4 ~~April,~~ May 1944.

With reference to my letter to you W 5497/16/48 of the 22nd April about the proposal to set up a refugee camp in Tripolitania, I now enclose herein for your information the draft of the minute which we propose to submit to the War Cabinet.

A.W.R

44

(W 5497/16/48).

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

4th May, 1944.

OUT FILE

Jas P.J.

With reference to my letter to you W 5497/16/48 of the 22nd April about the proposal to set up a refugee camp in Tripolitania, I now enclose herein for your information the draft of the minute which we propose to submit to the War Cabinet.

Yours ever,
(sd) Richard Law

The Right Honourable

Sir James Grigg, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., M.P.

45

E.A.W.

Typing Pool

3 copies on
draft paper,
please.
A. Walker
13/5

Refugee Left-

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Note on the Plan to Establish a Camp for Refugees in Tripolitania.

In April 1943 the Anglo-American Conference met in Bermuda to recommend steps to deal with the international refugee question. One of the principal problems was (and emphatically still is) the establishment of adequate reception camps or centres for the temporary reception of many thousands of those refugees from German oppression for whose maintenance His Majesty's Government have, in conjunction with the United States Government, undertaken responsibility. The British Delegation agreed to recommend for re-consideration a proposal made by the United States Delegation that a refugee centre should be established in Cyrenaica (a similar proposal had been made at the beginning of the year by the Greek Government but had been opposed by the C-in-C. Middle East at a time when the area was in, or near the scene of, military operations). At the same time both Delegations undertook to recommend to their respective Military Authorities that they should authorise the establishment of a refugee centre in North Africa (at Fedhala near Mogador) to receive refugees who had escaped from German-occupied Europe into Spain and who constituted a source of friction with the Spanish Authorities.

/ Resistance

Resistance to this latter project, however, was encountered from the United States Military Authorities. At the beginning of last May the President of the United States and the Prime Minister discussed the possibility of using Cyrenaica or Tripolitania as satellite ~~colonies~~ settlements for Jews to take the strain off the National Jewish Home in Palestine. The Prime Minister in a minute suggested the advisability of considering these areas as suitable for refugee reception centres as a contribution to the solution of the accommodation problem. The matter was then dealt with at a departmental level, but in view of the continued opposition of the United States Military Authorities a recommendation was submitted to the Prime Minister that he should send a personal telegram to the President urging the importance of securing a favourable decision on the Fedhala camp. This was done and a reply was received from the President on the 10th July agreeing to the establishment of the camp, but at the same time recording his understanding that the possibility of using Cyrenaica and Tripolitania for the establishment of similar refugee centres was being studied by the British Authorities. It was plain that the President regarded this latter development as being in the nature of

After further inter-departmental discussion

/ a

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

a quid pro quo for his assistance in prevailing upon the United States and also the French Authorities to agree to the establishment of the Morocco centre, to which refugees from Spain are now about to be sent.

The question of the establishment of refugee camps in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania was thereupon put up to the Minister ~~of State~~ Resident in the Middle East. As regards Cyrenaica the objections, in particular friction with the local Arab inhabitants, are substantial but appear to the Foreign Office much less so in the case of Tripolitania. The Minister ~~of State~~ Resident and the Military Authorities in the Middle East however, ~~upheld~~ maintained their objections on the ground that though a camp could be provided it would be at the expense of military operational requirements. In October, the matter was taken up with the War Office and finally, in view of direct representations from the United States Embassy at the end of March, personally with the Secretary of State for War, who, however, in reply maintained the previous military objections. The reasons for requiring the camp, the objections and the overriding advantages may be recapitulated.

It was understood by the British and

/ United

WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.
NOTHING TO BE

United States Delegations at the Bermuda Conference that they should recommend respectively the establishment of refugee centres in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania on the one hand and in Morocco on the other on a basis of the administration and maintenance, etc. being shared equally between the two Governments. It was also understood that in return for American assistance in securing the North African camp, to which we attach much importance in order to clear Spain of refugees, we should establish a camp in either Tripolitania or ~~and~~ Cyrenaica. Cyrenaica, however, proved unworkable, but the political objections in the case of Tripolitania are, in the view of the Foreign Office, not at all insuperable ~~for a moderate number (1000 1500 persons)~~, while the force of the military objections (difficulty of supplies and shipping and personnel) is, in the opinion of the Foreign Office much diminished by the fact that complete United States co-operation in all these spheres, as also in finance, is assured. Moreover, apart from the importance of His Majesty's Government fulfilling their side of a bargain with the United States Government, the establishment of the camp is likely to prove of great importance for the future. Already large numbers of refugees are leaving Yugoslavia. Accommodation will have to be found for them

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and there is the further possibility of an increasing outflow of Jews from various points in the Balkans. If the Palestine White Paper quota is not to be filled up rapidly with a consequent danger of tension at a critical time it is therefore essential on the grounds of general policy to neglect no opportunity of providing alternative accommodation. Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon are all playing their part in accommodating large numbers of refugees for whom His Majesty's Government assumed responsibility. It is the submission of the Foreign Office that Tripolitania, too, must be brought into the scheme, and that, particularly in view of American desires and assurances of help, the military objections are outweighed by considerations of general policy and the importance of maintaining equal co-operation between His Majesty's Government and the United States Government in questions affecting refugees.

Registry
No.

Draft.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Note on the Plan to Establish a Camp for Refugees in Tripolitania.

In April 1943 the Anglo-American Conference met in Bermuda to recommend steps to deal with the international refugee question. One of the principal problems was (and emphatically still is) the establishment of adequate reception camps or centres for the temporary reception of many thousands of those refugees from German oppression for whose maintenance His Majesty's Government have, in conjunction with the United States Government, undertaken responsibility. The British Delegation agreed to recommend for re-consideration a proposal made by the United States Delegation that a refugee centre should be established in Cyrenaica (a similar proposal had been made at the beginning of the year by the Greek Government but had been opposed by the Commander-in-Chief Middle East at a time when the area was in, or near the scene of, military operations). At the same time both Delegations undertook to recommend to their respective Military authorities that they should authorise the establishment of a refugee centre in North Africa (at Fedhala near Mogador) to receive refugees who had escaped from German-occupied Europe into Spain and who constituted a source of friction with the Spanish authorities. Resistance to this latter project, however, was encountered from the United States Military authorities. After further interdepartmental discussion a recommendation was submitted to the Prime Minister that he should send a personal telegram

to/

to the President urging the importance of securing a favourable decision on the Fedhala camp. This was done and a reply was received from the President on the 10th July agreeing to the establishment of the camp, but at the same time recording his understanding that the possibility of using Cyrenaica and Tripolitania for the establishment of similar refugee centres was being studied by the British authorities. It was plain that the President regarded this latter development as being in the nature of a quid pro quo for his assistance in prevailing upon the United States and also the French authorities to agree to the establishment of the Morocco centre, to which refugees from Spain are now about to be sent.

The question of the establishment of refugee camps in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania was therupon put to to the Minister Resident in the Middle East. As regards Cyrenaica the objections, in particular friction with the local Arab inhabitants, are substantial but appear to the Foreign Office much less so in the case of Tripolitania. The Minister Resident and the Military authorities in the Middle East however, maintained their objections on the ground that though a camp could be provided it would be at the expense of military operational requirements. In October, the matter was taken up with the War Office and finally, in view of direct representations from the United States Embassy at the end of March, personally with the Secretary of State for War, who, however, in

reply/

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

reply maintained the previous military objections. The reasons for requiring the camp, the objections and the overriding advantages may be recapitulated.

It was understood by the British and United States Delegations at the Bermuda Conference that they should recommend respectively the establishment of refugee centres in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania on the one hand and in Morocco on the other on a basis of the administration and maintenance, etc. being shared equally between the two Governments. It was also understood that in return for American assistance in securing the North African camp, to which we attach much importance in order to clear Spain of refugees, we should establish a camp in either Tripolitania or Cyrenaica. Cyrenaica, however, proved unworkable, but the political objections in the case of Tripolitania are, in the view of the Foreign Office, not at all insuperable while the force of the military objections (difficulty of supplies and shipping and personnel) is, in the opinion of the Foreign Office much diminished by the fact that complete United States co-operation in all these spheres, as also in finance, is assured. Moreover, apart from the importance of His Majesty's Government fulfilling their side of a bargain with the United States Government, the establishment of the camp is likely to prove of great importance for the future. Already large numbers of refugees are leaving Yugoslavia. Accommodation will have to be found for them and there is the further possibility of an increasing outflow of Jews from various points

in /

in the Balkans. If the Palestine White Paper quota is not to be filled up rapidly with a consequent danger of tension at a critical time it is therefore essential on the grounds of general policy to neglect no opportunity of providing alternative accommodation. Egypt, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon are all playing their part in accommodating large numbers of refugees for whom His Majesty's Government assumed responsibility. It is the submission of the Foreign Office that Tripolitania, too, must be brought into the scheme, and that, particularly in view of American desires and assurances of help, the military objections are outweighed by considerations of general policy and the importance of maintaining equal co-operation between His Majesty's Government and the United States Government in questions affecting refugees.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

50

E.A.W.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Note for the Secretary of State

Establishment of Camp for Refugees in Tripolitania

~~As you will remember, in the course~~ As an outcome of the Bermuda discussions ~~a year ago~~ in April 1943 a bargain was struck with the Americans under which they permitted the formation of a camp in Morocco for refugees from Spain (which is now on the point of receiving its first contingent of about 500 refugees from that country) on the understanding that H.M.G. admitted refugees from Italy into Tripolitania or Cyrenaica. The proposal was put to the War Office ~~which~~ who raised objections as described in the attached note, and has ~~obstinately~~ maintained these objections during the past year. At the meeting of the ~~War~~ Cabinet Refugee Committee ~~on the Reception and Accommodation of Refugees~~ held on the 14th March you proposed and the Committee approved that a further approach should be made to the War Office to waive their objections. This approach, which took the form of a personal letter from the Minister of State to the Secretary of State for War, met once more with a negative reply and it was therefore recommended to Mr. Law in April that he should inform Sir James Grigg that in view of the intense American interest in the matter and of our undertaking to meet their wishes it was proposed to submit the matter to the War Cabinet in the form of the note attached to this minute. This action was taken on the 4th May. No reply has yet been received from the Secretary of State for War and it is therefore suggested that the attached note should be circulated to the War Cabinet with a view to securing ~~xxx~~ a ~~xffixxxxtixxx~~ decision in favour of the establishment/

establishment of the camp as soon as possible.

If the submission of this question to the War Cabinet is finally approved occasion should be taken to emphasise the following points:-

(a) The ~~Bermuda~~ undertaking to establish a camp in Tripolitania as a quid pro quo for the American consent to the establishment of a refugee camp in Morocco;

(b) The great and increasing interest taken in this matter and in general in the solution of the refugee problem at the highest levels in the United States, in particular by the President and by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Morgenthau. This point has received further and quite recent confirmation from Sir Herbert Emerson, the Director of the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees, who during his recent visit to the United States was in close contact with Mr. Pehle, the Executive Director of the War Refugee Board which was recently formed on the initiative of the President, whose interest in the Board's activities enables it in practice to short-circuit even the State Department.

(c) If we do not meet the United States Government's wishes in this matter we may find the United States Government unco-operative in the later and undoubtedly complex phase which the international refugee problem will enter after the end of the war.

I therefore submit a memorandum on the subject to go, if approved, to the War Cabinet, and a covering note.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. W 5497/16/48

E.A.W.

Draft.

Sir J. Grigg,
War Office.

(From the Minister of State)

13/4

Egyptian Department ~~for concurrence first~~.

14/4

Private Secretary to Mr. Law.

19/4.

we do not think without such authority feel we could return a negative answer to a request which is clearly inspired by the President ~~without such authority~~

Awork.

138

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

OUT FILE

25th April, 1944.

Dear P-J

Thank you for your letter of 4th April about the proposal to set up a refugee camp in Tripolitania. You will hardly ~~not~~ be surprised to learn that in view of what seem to us to be the very cogent arguments in favour of establishing the camp which we have put forward ~~expounded to you~~ in previous correspondence your reply is to us ~~rather~~ disappointing. Moreover, ~~Furthermore~~, in view of the American interest in the project and also of the fact that it was only through the intervention of the President that the authorisation for the Tripoli camp's counterpart, namely the camp at Fedhala in Morocco, was finally secured, we feel obliged to consider putting it up for a decision by the War Cabinet as soon as possible. In these circumstances we propose submitting to the War Cabinet a minute ~~for their early verdict~~.

giving the pros and cons, and we will send you a copy of this in draft.

We were in a position

t. announce the first coming
establishment of the camp; it
would in our judgment have
a considerable effect in
America where, however
unjustly, we are being blamed
for leaving Jews to their
fate in Europe by our unwillingness
to throw the gates of Palestine
wide open.

A.W.G.R.

Yours ever,
(Signed) Richard Law

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

File Number:—

W 16

~~LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.~~

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

68

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GENERAL

1944

REFUGEES

W 5551

2 MAR 1944

Registry Number } W 5551/16/48

FROM War Cabinet Offices (communicated).

No. -

Dated

Received in Registry } - 12th April, 1944.

W : Refugees.

Activities of the War Refugee Board.

Communicates copy of the draft minutes of a meeting of the Committee on the Reception and Accommodation of Refugees held in the Foreign Office on Tuesday, the 14th March, to discuss (a) United States funds for relief of Jews in enemy territory, (b) migration into Palestine, and (c) settlement of refugees in Tripolitania.

Last Paper.

W 5494

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(*Minutes.*)

(See within)

As regards action at 3 (iv) this was taken & the F.O. for war has again refused his consent to the camp scheme.

Refugees Dept has now proposed that in view of U.S.A. interest in the project, a Cab decision should be sought.

(See W 5494/16/48)

A Walker
15/4

A.M.R.
14/iv

(Action completed.) 15 1944

(Index.) M.H. 3/8

Next Paper.

W 5552

19819 9/39 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

The DRAFT MINUTES are circulated for approval, it is requested that any comments be forwarded by NOON, 22 MAR 1944 after when concurrence will be assumed.

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT)

W 5551
12 APR 1944

CONFIDENTIAL

J.R.(44)1st Meeting

COPY NO. 7

WAR CABINET

COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION AND ACCOMMODATION OF REFUGEES

DRAFT MINUTES of a Meeting of the Committee held in the Secretary of State's Room, Foreign Office on TUESDAY, 14TH MARCH, 1944 at 5 p.m.

PRESENT:

The Rt. Hon. Anthony Eden, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (In the Chair)

The Rt.Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P., Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister of Home Security

Col.The Rt.Hon.Oliver Stanley, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT :

The Rt. Hon. Sir John Anderson, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer, (Item 1 (a))

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Selborne, Minister of Economic Warfare (Item 1 (a))

Earl Winterton, (Items 1 & 2)

Sir H. Emerson (Items 1 & 2)

Mr. A.W.G. Randall, Foreign Office

Sir Frank Newsam, Home Office

Sir John F. Moylan, Home Office

SECRETARIAT

Mr. E.H.T. Wiltshire
Mr. E.A. Walker

51

1. AMERICAN FUNDS FOR RELIEF OF JEWS IN ENEMY TERRITORY

THE COMMITTEE had before them J.R.(44) 4, 6, 7 and 8 (the two last circulated herewith), describing the activities of the newly constituted President's War Refugee Board. The Board had already licensed substantial allocations to be applied to the relief of Jews in enemy territory; and the Board proposed to issue a declaration in which His Majesty's Government were invited to participate.

(a) Allocations to Enemy Territories

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS observed that the total of licenses issued by the Board had now reached 700,000 dollars, and invited the Committee to consider whether operations of this magnitude required any action on the part of His Majesty's Government.

THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC WARFARE said that the proposal was open to the objections that:-

(a) if cash transactions were employed, the purchases of Swiss francs by the enemy for espionage would be facilitated; and

(b) that His Majesty's Government had refused to permit food to be sent to, e.g. the wives of Polish serving soldiers, and the apparent difference in policy might give rise to complaint.

He would regret the further development of these activities, even though they might not be of vital importance.

SIR HERBERT EMERSON observed that in theory the Americans would want to restrict the scheme to the Jews but that in practice it would be difficult for them to do so. Large allocations under the scheme might well undermine the credit system operated in some countries. He thought that adequate control over the use of the licences was necessary, and he felt that information on this was lacking. There was, however, no doubt that this scheme was capable of benefiting the refugees.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER thought it desirable to aim at impssing suitable limits on the scheme, rather than to run the risk of inciting the Americans to go ahead by adopting too stiff an attitude.

X THE COMMITTEE then discussed an alternative scheme put forward by Earl Winterton and Sir Herbert Emerson under which operations would be financed by credit transactions against non-negotiable receipts. Reference was made to the activities of a leading Swiss Jew who had advanced large sums under this system. These were remitted to reliable persons in enemy territory, who were then able to use the money for securing release of potential refugees from concentration camps, and maintaining them in concealment, if they could not be passed over the border to safety. MR. WINANT knew of this proposal and was understood to favour it.

THE MINISTER OF ECONOMIC WARFARE and other members of the Committee considered that the alternative should be pursued.

THE COMMITTEE concurred in the suggestion of the Foreign Secretary that an approach should be made to the Americans on the highest level and:-

(i) invited the Minister of Economic Warfare, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Earl Winterton, to prepare a draft telegram to His Majesty's Ambassador in Washington for communication to the United States Government on the lines of the discussion and in particular commending the alternative scheme at 'X' above.

(b) Proposed Declaration

THE COMMITTEE considered the proposed declaration (J.R.(44) 8). The objections to a declaration of any sort already noted in paragraph 2(b) of J.R.(44) 4 were felt to apply. Moreover, it was observed that the Russians could not subscribe to it.

THE COMMITTEE:-

(ii) invited the Foreign Secretary to communicate with the United States Government, expressing the view that a declaration of the kind proposed addressed to the Germans would do no good, and might do harm; but that His Majesty's Government favoured a declaration addressed to the satellite powers, and, if the U.S. Government agreed to make it, would be ready to examine the possibility of parallel action.

2. MIGRATION INTO PALESTINE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES said that an application had been received for the allocation from the immigration quota still available after 31st March of a large quota which would be mainly applied to the benefit of Jews from such safe places as Turkey or the Yemen. He was in favour of giving a small quota, but the remaining quota should be reserved chiefly for the immigration of Jews who were in danger in enemy or enemy occupied countries.

THE COMMITTEE:-

(iii) agreed with the course proposed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

3. SETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN TRIPOLITANIA

MR. RANDALL said that in the course of the Bermuda discussions a bargain had bedn struck with the Americans under which they permitted the formation of a camp in Morocco for refugees from Spain, on the understanding that His Majesty's Government admitted refugees from Italy into Tripolitania. The War Office had, however, made objection.

THE FOREIGN SECRETARY proposed that the Foreign Office should make a further approach to the War Office to waive their objection. This was strongly supported by the Home Secretary.

THE COMMITTEE:-

(iv) approved the above proposal and invited the Foreign Secretary to take the necessary action.

Offices of the War Cabinet, S.W.1.
16TH MARCH, 1944.

File Number :—

W 16

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.

GENERAL.

REFUGEES 1944

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REFUGEES

W 5552

2 APR 1944

55

Registry Number W 5552/16/48

FROM War Cabinet Offices (Communicated)

No. J.R. (44) 8

Dated 15th March 1944

Received in Registry 12th April 1944

W : Refugees

Proposed statement by the President on Refugees.

Communicates copy of a note dated 15th March by Mr. Wiltshire, Joint Secretary of the Committee on the Reception and Accommodation of Refugees covering copy of Washington telegram No. 1236 (W 3867) giving the text of the declaration prepared by the Director of the War Refugee Board.

Last Paper.

W 5551

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(*Minutes.*)

(See within)

? X Stoltzer

17/4

Secy K.

16/IV

(Action completed.)

W 14/4

M.H. 25/4/44 (Index.)

Next Paper.

W 5563

19819 9/39 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

W 5552

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CONFIDENTIAL

J.R.(44) 8

15th March 1944

COPY NO. 7

WAR CABINET

COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION AND
ACCOMMODATION OF REFUGEES

Note by the Joint Secretary

W864

With reference to paragraph 1(b) of J.R.(44) 4, I circulate at Annex, for the information of the Committee, a copy of a telegram No.1236 from Washington to the Foreign Office, dated 11th March 1944, giving the text of the declaration prepared by the Director of the War Refugee Board.

(Signed) E.H.T. WILTSHIRE,

Joint Secretary.

Offices of the War Cabinet,
S.W.1,

15TH MARCH 1944.

ANNEX

One of the blackest crimes in all history, the systematic murder of Jews of Europe, continues unabated.

By their actions and by their words, the Nazi leaders have made it plain that they intend to pursue their diabolical scheme until the last Jewish life within their grasp is extinguished. More than 2,000,000 innocent men, women and children have already been put to death solely because they were Jews, and merciless slaughter continues.

The world can not and never will forget Lidice, Kharkov, the march of death and rape of Nanking. Nor will the world forget the slaughter of Jews.

Each day that passes finds our youth fighting and dying on battle fronts to make a world in which tyranny and barbarity cannot exist; a world of justice; a world in which all persons may live in peace, honour, and dignity, regardless of their race, colour or creed.

It is therefore highly fitting that we should again proclaim our unswerving determination that none who share the guilt for such acts of savagery against the people of the world

shall go unpunished. The United Nations, speaking for shocked conscience of mankind, have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty to the uttermost ends of the earth and will deliver them up in order that justice be done. And justice will be done whether the crime be transporting Jewish children in box cars knowing their destination is death, hanging Russian women, or executing in cold blood masses of helpless people. Let that warning now be repeated so that no one shall fail to hear and understand. Let it be unmistakably clear that guilt attaches not only to the executioner but also to him who supplies the victim; not only to the ring leader but to his henchmen as well. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment whether in high or low station, whether of German or other nationality.

These crimes against humanity are being committed in the name of the German people. But let the actions of every German whose heart revolts against this wicked dedication, and actions of every man everywhere whose heart is sickened by the slaughter, bear him witness. Let him succour victims of Hitler's insane hate and shield them from Nazi terror. Let him hide them, help them to get over the borders, and do what he can to save them from the Nazi hangmen. Let him keep watch also over his neighbour and record evidence that one day soon will convict those whose hands are stained with innocent blood and acquit those who are without blame.

In the meantime, and until victory that is now assured is won, we shall persevere in our efforts to rescue the helpless victims of Hitler's pitiless brutality. In so far as necessities of military operations permit this Government will use all means within its command to aid the escape of Jews and other intended victims of the Nazi executor. We call upon the peoples of Europe to lend every assistance to this righteous task. We call upon the free peoples of Europe to open their frontiers to these terror stricken refugees. We shall find for these freedom from the shadow of death and we shall find the means to assume their maintenance and support until the tyrant is driven from their homeland, and peace and justice there prevail. In the name of justice and humanity let all freedom loving nations rally to this great undertaking.

File Number :—

W 16

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.

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W 5553

12 APR 1944

Registry Number W 5553/16/48

FROM War Cabinet Offices (Communicated)

No. J.R.(44)7

Dated

Received in Registry 12th April 1944

W : Refugees

Activities of the War Refugee Board.

Communicates copy of a note by Mr. Wiltshire, Joint Secretary of the Committee on the Reception and Accommodation of Refugees, covering copy of Washington Telegram 536 Arfar (W 4064) concerning the further operations of the War Refugee Board.

Last Paper.

W5552

W4064 to Dept

(*Minutes.*)

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

This was discussed at the meeting of the Refugee War Cabinet Subcommittee on the 14th March (See D . . . . .) & instructions & W.T. telegram were drafted accordingly on the lines that the J.S.C should be empowered & coordinate this work in future. No reply has yet been received from the U.S. Govt.

A. Walker
15/4

D.M.K.
14/4

(Action completed.) 18/6

M.H. (Index.) 3/8

Next Paper.

W5554

19819 9/39 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

W 5553
12 APR 1944

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CONFIDENTIAL

J.R. (44) 7

COPY NO. 7

15TH MARCH, 1944.

WAR CABINET

COMMITTEE ON THE RECEPTION AND ACCOMMODATION OF REFUGEES

Note by the Joint Secretary

I circulate at Annex, for the information of the Committee, a copy of telegram No. 536 ARFAR, from Washington to the Ministry of Economic Warfare, dated 12th March, 1944, concerning the further operations of the War Refugee Board.

(Signed) E.H.T. WILTSHIRE

Joint Secretary

Offices of the War Cabinet,
S.W.1.
15TH MARCH, 1944.

ANNEX

The matter has been further discussed with Pehle. He assures us that full details of the operations of the War Refugee Board including financial transactions are shortly to be transmitted to Mr. Winant to be communicated to His Majesty's Government. However, it is evident that United States policy on this matter generally is regarded as dictated by the Presidential order setting up the board which directed that all possible measures are to be taken to achieve the objective, and that the Board are unlikely to be deterred from the action they are taking unless it can be proved likely to result in substantial gain to the enemy.

2. The discussion revealed that the Board has gone ahead with the issue of licences far beyond anything contemplated when this matter was discussed at the end of last year. The total of licences issued to the World Jewish Congress and J.D.C. amount to dollars 700,000 although only part of this amount has so far actually been utilised; additional licences will probably be granted when required. Part of the money will be absorbed by administrative and other expenses in connexion with the scheme, but as regards that part which will be available for use in occupied Europe the following three methods are permitted:-

(a) Purchasing from residents in Switzerland, francs and other occupied countries currencies where it can be shown such currency has been held since before the war or "legitimately" acquired since. Currency so purchased to be used for payments in occupied country to support the Jews or facilitate their escape.

(b) The acquisition of francs or other occupied countries

currencies in the occupied country itself against a promise to pay dollars after the War. J.D.C. are said to have a number of satisfactory contracts for this purpose.

(c) The actual use of dollars or other "hard" currency in occupied countries where this is necessary in order to secure assistance in getting the Jews out.

3. Method (c) above is only to be resorted to when (a) or (b) do not suffice. Pehle assured us that this method would only be used with discretion, and would not be allowed to develop into anything of the nature of a ransom racket. He was convinced that any sums which might find their way into official German hands would be insignificant, and out of all proportion to possible benefit.

4. It has been strongly impressed on Pehle that you would undoubtedly regard these transactions as being full of danger unless surrounded by far stricter safeguards, and that in any case you were extremely concerned that action of this nature, constituting as it does so radical a departure from the practice hitherto agreed, should have been taken unilaterally. He was unable to give any adequate explanation of this, but fell back on the urgency of his instructions from the highest quarters and the need to act quickly if results were to be achieved in time.

5. Although the State Department is stated to have approved throughout the line of action taken, it does not appear that F.E.A. or those in the Department most concerned in economic warfare were consulted and we shall be discussing the position further with them. They will probably support any protest we may make to the extent of calling for joint examination with you of such safeguards as can be introduced, but in view of the support behind the operations of W.R.B. it is doubtful if we can secure reversal of the policy now in force in respect of these financial transactions. Since I understand that Stettinius has taken strong personal interest in the whole matter, opportunity may be afforded by his visit to London to discuss with him.

File Number :—

W 16

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN

GENERAL.

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W 5554

2 APR 1944

Registry Number W 5554/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Embassy to the Netherlands.

No. 58.

Dated 7th Apr:1944.

Received in Registry 12th Apr:1944.

W: Refugees.

German crimes against the Jews.

Refers to Sir N. Bland's despatch No. 55 (W 5257/16/48).

Transmits copy of despatch No. 29 of the 7th April to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs covering the text of the Statement on the German crimes against the Jews.

Last Paper.

W5553

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(*Minutes.*)

X A. Walker 14/4

Ans R 14/4

(Action completed.)

M.H. (Index.) 25/4/44

Next Paper.

19088 4/39 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 58. ✓ Refs.

02

W

12

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British.....Embassy to the Netherlands,
.....3, Cleveland Row,
.....St.James's, S.W. 1.
April 7th....., 1944.

Reference to previous correspondence: Refs
Sir N.Bland's desp.No.55 of April 4th 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
To Ministry for Foreign Affairs, April 7th 1944.	German crimes against Jews. Trs. text of Statement.

APR 7 1944
F.O. REGISTRY

63

5554

APR 1944

April 7th 1944.

No.29.

Your Excellency,

With reference to Your Excellency's note No.2224 C.A. of April 4th, regarding the proposed issue of a statement by His Majesty's Government reaffirming their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, I have the honour, by direction of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to Your Excellency herewith a copy of the text of the statement as read by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons on the 24th March.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration,

(signed) Neville Bland.

His Excellency
Dr. E. van Kleffens,
Netherland Minister for Foreign Affairs.

File Number :—

W 16

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN

GENERAL.

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W 5617

12 APR 1944

64

Registry Number } W 5617/16/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Viscount Halifax (Washington).

No. 1835.

Dated 11th April, 1944.

Received in Registry 12th April, 1944.

W : Refugees.

Activities of the War Refugee Board.

Refers to Foreign Office telegram 2400 (W 4064/16/48). States that it has been unofficially put forward that some difficulty was foreseen if the proposed scheme by putting control of the Guarantee fund in the hands of the Intergovernmental Committee were to result in the exclusion or the weakening of the War Refugee Board. Suggests that further consideration be given to this point. Adds that he will continue to press for an early reply, and Sir H. Emerson will ~~seapk~~ Spak to Rehle.

Last Paper.

W 5554

References.

(Minutes.)

pl see also W4062 [illegible] & pp attached)

Copies to: Treasury (Mr Playfair)
M.E.W. (Mr Bliss)
C.O.
D.O. (Mr Bagnall)
H.O.

What a naive admission that the motive behind this new U.S. Zionist policy is not so much humanitarianism as the exaltation of the War Refugee Board!

Para. 2. This point seems to be reasonable.

We must await the U.S. official reply.

Ian A. Henderson
17/4

A Walker
17/4

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

S) Treasury (Mr Playfair)
M.E.W. (Mr Bliss)
C.O.
D.O. (Mr Bagnall)
H.O.

April 13.

N. American Dept. to see. Jan 15/iv

This is the difficulty Sir H. Emerson anticipated. Ang R. 16/iv

(Action completed.) 8/6

M.N. (Index.) 3/8

Next Paper.

W5626.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

W (Ref)

65

W 5617
12 APR 1944

[THIS TELEGRAM IS OF PARTICULAR SECRECY AND SHOULD BE RETAINED BY THE AUTHORISED RECIPIENT AND NOT PASSED ON]

[CYPHER] WAR CABINET DISTRIBUTION

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Viscount Halifax
No: 1835
11th April, 1944

D. 10.53 p.m. 11th April, 1944
R. 8.20 a.m. 12th April, 1944

ddddddd

W4064/16/48

Your telegram No. 2400.

While no official reply has yet been given by the State Department to representations which I made on the basis of your telegram under reference, member of my staff was told informally that some difficulty was foreseen if the proposed scheme, by putting control of the Guarantee Fund in the hands of Intergovernmental Committee, were to result in the exclusion or weakening of the influence of War Refugee Board.

2. Presumably it would be for the United States Government to arrange for satisfactory liaison between War Refugee Board and United States Representative on the Committee, but this is a point to which you may care to give further consideration. In the meantime I shall continue to press for an early reply to your proposals, and Sir H. Emerson will speak to Pehle.

O.T.P.

REGISTRY

File Number :—

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Registry Number } W 5626/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Ambassador to Poland.

No. 54.

Dated 11th April, 1944.

Received in Registry } 13th April, 1944.

W : Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's statement to Poland.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch 118 (W 4731/16/48). Transmits copy of a note to M. Romer, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated 11th April, covering copy of the statement reaffirming His Majesty's Government's intention to punish outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites.

Last Paper.

W5614

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

X

A.P.

17/4

(Action completed.)

M.H. 25/4/44 (Index.)

Next Paper.

W-5700.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 54

Refs. 67

HIS Majesty's Ambassador to Poland at
presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.of S.for F.A.
and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

British Embassy to Poland,
45 Lowndes Square,
S.W.1.

11th April, 1944

Reference to previous correspondence:
F.O.despatch No.118 (W 4731/16/48) of 1st April 1944

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note to M.Romer, Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (124/4/44) of 11th April 1944	Punishment of outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites

W 5626

APR 12 XII I 1944 F.O. REGISTRY

3479A 25019—2 (4)

Enclosure to Sir Owen O'Malley's despatch
No.54 of 11th April 1944

68

(124/4/44)

BRITISH EMBASSY TO POLAND
45 Lowndes Square,
S.W.1.

11th April 1944

Monsieur le Ministre,

.... Under instructions from the Secretary of State I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency herewith a copy of the statement reaffirming the intention of His Majesty's Government to punish outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, which he made on behalf of the G Government in the House of Commons on the 30th ultimo.

It had been originally anticipated that the declaration in question would be a joint Anglo-American-Soviet, or at least Anglo-American, document, but President Roosevelt decided to issue his statement independently. His Majesty's Government considered that they must certainly be associated with such a statement of general refugee policy: they therefore drew up the statement, which has since been read in the House of Commons by Mr.Eden, reaffirming their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, though at the same time suggesting that good behaviour on the part of the latter or their officials might mitigate eventual retribution.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur le Ministre, to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(signed) OWEN O'MALLEY

His Excellency
Monsieur T. Romer,
etc., etc., etc.

File Number :—

W16

~~LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.~~

GENERAL.

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W 5700

14 APR 1944

69

Registry Number W 5700/16/48.

Sir L. Oliphant

FROM Ambassador His Majesty's ~~Embassy~~ to Belgium.

No. 50

Dated 13th Apr. 1944.

Received in Registry 14th Apr. 944.

W: Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft statement on refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch 55 (W 4731/16/48). Transmits copy of note No.24 of the 11th April to the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs covering copy of the statement read by Mr. Eden on 30th March reaffirming His Majesty's Government's intention of punishing outrages against Jews and others at the hands of Germany and her satellites.

Last Paper.

W 5626

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(Action completed.)

M.H. 25/4/44 (Index.)

Next Paper.

W 5728

(*Minutes.*)

X A.D. 15/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 50

Rfs 70

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Belgium presents his compliments to H.M. S. of S. for F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

W 5700

British Embassy to Belgium,
45 Lowndes Square,
S.W.1.
13 April, 1944.

APR 1944

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. despatch No. 55 (W 4731/16/48) of 1 April, 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 24 of 11 April, 1944, to Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. (enclosure not attached).	Punishment of outrages against Jews and others at hands of Germany and her satellites.

APR 13 1944 F.O. REGISTRY

3479A 25019—2 (4)

No. 24

(27/10/44)

BRITISH EMBASSY TO BELGIUM,
45 LOWNDES SQUARE, S.W.1.
11 April, 1944.

Monsieur le Ministre,

With reference to my Note No. 20 of March 30th and to your Note C. 69.500/M/1/2 of April 4th regarding the proposed issue of a statement by His Majesty's Government reaffirming their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, I have the honour to transmit to Your Excellency herewith the text of a statement as read by Mr. Eden in the House of Commons on March 30th.

I avail myself of this opportunity, Monsieur le Ministre, to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Lancelot Oliphant.

His Excellency
Monsieur P.H. Spaak, G.C.M.G.,
etc., etc., etc.

File Number:—

W 16

~~LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.~~

GENERAL.

REFUGEES
1944

45E

GENERAL

1944

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W 5728

APR 1944

Registry Number W 5728/16/48

M.P.B. Nicholls,

FROM His Majesty's Ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

No. 47

Dated 13th April, 1944

Received in Registry 14th April, 1944.

General : Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft statement on refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch 66 (W 4731/16/48). Transmits copy of note dated 11th April to the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs covering statement confirming His Majesty's Government's decision to punish outrages against Jewish and other victims of Germany and her satellites. Also transmits copy of reply dated 11th April from the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Last Paper.

W 5400

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Ref in Dept

Central Dept Note the Czech reservation

Mr Beckett PP 17.IV.44

A Walker

17/4

Am R.

17/iv

(Action completed.)

WR. 18/4/44

(Index.) M.H. 25/4/44

Next Paper.

W.6159.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 47 (77/9/44)

Refs.

73

HIS Majesty's Ambassador to Czechoslovakia presents his compliments to H.M.P.S.S.F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

W 5728

British....Embassy...to...the Czechoslovak

.....Republic,

.....45,...Lowndes..Square, S.W.1.

April...13th...., 1944...

Reference to previous correspondence:

F.O. despatches Nos. 61 (W 4731/16/48) of 28th March, 1944, and 66 (W 4731/16/48) of 1st April, 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Notes to Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, March 30th and April 11th, 1944. Note from Czechoslovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, April 11th, 1944.	H.M.Government's statement of March 30th on punishment for outrages committed by Germany and satellites.

APR 1944

F.O. REGISTRY

74

11th April 1944.

No. 2769/dův/44.

Sir,

I have the honour to confirm the receipt of your letter of March 30th No 11/:77/2/44:/ in which you were good enough to let me know that His Majesty s Government propose to publish without delay a statement on behalf of the United Nations concerning the punishment of the criminals of the present war.

The draft statement shows that the United Nations propose to reaffirm their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, though at the same time suggesting that good behaviour on the part of the latter or their officials may mitigate retribution.

I have been instructed to inform you that the Czechoslovak Government has taken due cognizance of the projected statement. In doing so it feels, however, bound to observe that it will be for the Czechoslovak tribunals to decide to what extent they may consider as mitigating circumstances the help which the culprits of crimes perpetrated on Czechoslovak territory or against Czechoslovak citizens anywhere would grant now, at the last moment, to persecuted persons.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

/sgd/Jan Masaryk.

His Excellency
Mr.Philip B.Nichols, C.M.G.,M.C.
etc.,etc.,etc.

75

COPY

No. 12
(77/7/44)

April 11th, 1944.

Sir,

With reference to my note No.11 (77/2/44) of March 30th, I have the honour, on the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, to transmit to Your Excellency herewith a copy of the text of the statement by His Majesty's Government reaffirming their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of Germany and her satellites, as read by Mr. Eden in the House of Commons on the 30th March last.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(SD) PHILIP NICHOLS

His Excellency
Mr. Jan Masaryk,
etc., etc., etc.

COPY.

No. 11
(77/2/44)

March 30th, 1944.

Sir,

On the instructions of His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to refer to the declaration issued by the President of the United States on the 24th March, conveying a warning to the German Government that outrages committed on their instructions against Jews will be suitably punished after the war. Prior to the issue of this declaration, to which Your Excellency's attention has no doubt been drawn, His Majesty's Government had been in contact with the United States Government with a view to arranging that the declaration should be a joint Anglo-American Soviet document, or at least Anglo-American, but President Roosevelt had decided to issue his statement independently. Since, however, it is clear that His Majesty's Government must be associated with a statement of general refugee policy of this character, the enclosed draft statement has been drawn up, from which it will be seen that His Majesty's Government reaffirm their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, though at the same time suggesting that good behaviour on the part of the latter or their officials may mitigate eventual retribution. This statement has been communicated to the Soviet Government for their concurrence. Should, however, such concurrence not be forthcoming in the near future, His Majesty's Government would propose to proceed with publication without delay.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to Your Excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

(SD) PHILIP NICHOLS

His Excellency
Mr. Jan Masaryk,
etc., etc., etc.

File Number :—

W 16

LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.

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W 6159

11

Registry Number W 6159/16/48

FROM Mr. Gordon Touche, M.P., to *No.* Colonel Ponsonby

Dated 17th April, 1944

Received in Registry 20th April, 1944.

W: Refugees.

Suggested formation of full time Committee on Refugees in the United Kingdom

Encloses ~~copy of a~~ letter dated the 5th April from the Secretary of the Dorking and District Refugee Committee regarding a proposal for the formation of a full-time Committee on Refugees in the United Kingdom.

Requests that a suitable reply be drafted.

Last Paper.

W 6428

(*Minutes.*)

See within

C. C.

28/4

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

Let Mr Gordon Touche M.P. Know Col. Ponsonby Apl 25.

(Action completed.)

No 24/10

(Index.)

M.H. 11/11

Next Paper.

W. 6970.

19819 9/39 F.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

Refugee Depts — Enclt 78

HOUSE OF COMMONS

W 6159

Kemp's Farm
Buckland
Betchworth
Surrey
17 April 44

My dear Ponsonby,

I enclose a letter from the Secretary of the Dorking and District Refugee Committee and would be grateful if you would get someone to send me a suitable reply

Yours sincerely

Gordon B. Dodds.

79

Copy.
(W 6159/16/48).

DORKING AND DISTRICT REFUGEE COMMITTEE.

5th April, 1944.

Dear Mr. Touche,

At the meeting of our Committee held on Monday last I was instructed to write to call your attention to the Resolution passed on February 29th at a Mass Meeting called by the Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror, and held at the Central Hall, Westminster.

The Resolution reads as follows:-

"We have noted with deep distress the continued persecution and massacre by the Nazis of millions of victims of diverse nationalities and races.
We have noted espcially that Adolf Hitler is still carrying out his declared policy of exterminating the entire Jewish population in all Nazi-controlled territories.
While recognising that a final end can be put to these atrocities only by the victory of the United Nations and the liberation of Europe, we ask His Majesty's Government to speed up measures of rescue for all who can be saved and to adopt the principle that, whatever other governments may do or leave undone, the British contribution to the work of rescue should be the speediest and most generous possible without delaying victory.
In particular, we urge that an organisation with a full-time Executive Director, similar to the War Refugee Board recently established by President Roosevelt, should be set up here, or alternatively that such a Director be attached to the existing Cabinet Sub-Committee, to ensure full co-operation with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees and other bodies engaged upon the task of rescue; also that special officials should be attached to the British Diplomatic Missions in countries which are liable

to /

Gordon Touche, Esq.,
1, Temple Gardens,
London, E.C.4.

to assist or receive refugees; also that the present utilitarian test of usefulness for the war effort applied to refugees seeking admission to this country should be supplemented by the humanitarian test of saving the largest possible numbers from Nazi persecution".

We strongly support this resolution, and ask you, as our Member of Parliament, to do all in your power to support this, and all other possible steps to rescue as many as possible of the unhappy victims of Nazi persecution. The possible number becomes smaller every day, the matter of rescue is of the utmost urgency.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee,
Yours sincerely,

(Signed). Edith E. Turner.
Hon. Secretary.

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Registry No. W6159/16/48

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

25 April, 1944.

C.C.

Draft/HS

Mr. Gordon Touche, M.P.

(from Col. Ponsonby)

Dear Touche

Many thanks for your letter of April 17th enclosing a copy of a Resolution passed on February 29th at a meeting called by the Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror at the Central Hall, Westminster, sent to you by the Dorking and District Refugee Committee. You may like to send your correspondent a copy of the debate in the House of Commons on March 1st in which Mr. Law gave details of the machinery dealt ~~with this matter~~, and Mrs. Lister Turner's attention might also be drawn ~~called~~ to Mr. Eden's declaration on behalf of H.M.G. concerning the persecution of the Jews in Germany and satellite countries made in answer to a Question by Mr. Silverman on March 30th.

Perhaps I might add ~~You might end by saying~~ that it is unfortunately inevitable that at the present critical state of the war our means cannot possibly equal our desire to help in this terribly complex and distressing problem.

I hope/

MARGIN. NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS

Government machinery for dealing with refugee problems

which has persistently been intractable by the fact that the German Government has consistently refused permits to refugees to depart and has compelled the Satellites to refuse transit.

I hope this will give you some material for answering the letter from the Committee, which I return herewith.

Ansk.

Yours Sincerely,
Lyd Charles Treasury

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

81

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

25th April, 1944.

(W 6159/16/48)

Dear Touche

Many thanks for your letter of the 17th April enclosing a copy of a Resolution passed on the 29th February at a meeting called by the Committee for Rescue from Nazi Terror at the Central Hall, Westminster, sent to you by the Dorking and District Refugee Committee. You may like to send your correspondent a copy of the debate in the House of Commons on the 1st March in which Mr. Law gave details of Government machinery for dealing with refugee problems, and Mrs. Lister Turner's attention might also be drawn to Mr. Eden's declaration on behalf of His Majesty's Government concerning the persecution of the Jews in Germany and satellite countries made in answer to a Question by Mr. Silverman on the 30th March.

Perhaps I might add that it is unfortunately inevitable that at the present critical state of the war our means cannot possibly equal our desire to help in this terribly complex and distressing problem, which has been made particularly intractable by the fact that the German Government has consistently refused permits to refugees to depart, and has compelled the satellites to refuse transit.

I hope this will give you some material for answering the letter from the Committee which I return herewith.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd Charles Peake

G. C. Touche Esq., M.P.

File Number :—

W 16

~~LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND WESTERN.~~

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

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W 6370

24 APR 1944

82

Registry Number W 6370/16/48

FROM His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to Yugoslavia.

No. 132.

Dated 9th Apr:1944.

Received in Registry 24th Apr:1944.

W: Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's statement on refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch No. 52 of 28th March (W 4731/16/48).

Transmits copy of his Note No. 118 to Yugoslav Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs on the above subject.

Last Paper.

W6159

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

W6382

(Minutes.)

X 40

25/4

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

No. 132

Refs

83

HIS Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to Y/Slavia presents his compliments to H.M.P.S. of S. for F.A. and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

W 6370

British....Embassy.. to..Yugoslavia

.....Cairo.....

.....

9th April,....., 1944.

Reference to previous correspondence: W 4781/16/48

F.O. despatch No. 52 of the 28th March, 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
Note No. 118 to Yugoslav Deputy M.F.A.	Declaration by H.M.G. on refugees.

BRITISH EMBASSY TO YUGOSLAVIA
CAIRO.

No. 118. 9th April, 1944.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform your Excellency, on instructions from the Foreign Office, that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom propose to issue at a very early date a statement on the question of the persecution of persons whose only offence is divergence from Nazi ideas in regard to race, religion or political belief. A copy of the draft of this statement is enclosed herein, from which you will see that in it His Majesty's Government reaffirm their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hands of Germany and her satellites, though it is at the same time suggested that good behaviour on the part of the satellite Governments or their officials may mitigate eventual retribution.

2. In communicating the above draft to your Excellency I have the honour to explain that the circumstances leading up to the preparation of the above-mentioned draft statement are the following: -

3. His Majesty's Government have been in touch with the United States Government with a view to arranging that the declaration to be made should be a joint Anglo-American-Soviet document, or at least Anglo-American. The President of the United States, however, decided himself to issue a statement on the 24th March conveying a warning to the German Government that outrages committed on their instructions against persons of Jewish race will be suitably punished after the war. In view of the issuing of this declaration, and of the fact that it is clear that His

Majesty's/

His Excellency
Monsieur V. Saponjić.
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Royal Yugoslav Government.

Majesty's Government must be associated with a statement of general refugee policy of this character, the present draft statement was prepared. The statement has been communicated to the Soviet Government for their concurrence, but should such concurrence not be forthcoming in the near future, His Majesty's Government propose to proceed with the publication without delay, with an appropriate introductory explanation.

4. I have the honour to add, in conclusion, that His Majesty's Government feel convinced that the Royal Yugoslav Government, in common with the other Allied Governments, will be in general agreement with them in the line which has been taken in the present statement, and with the terms which have been used in its drafting.

I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of my highest consideration.

PHILIP BROAD

for

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

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W 6382

Registry Number W 6382/16/48.

FROM Viscount de Lantscheere to Mr. Walker.

Dated 20th Apr. 1944.

Received in Registry 24th Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

War Refugee Board.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 3rd April (W 5119/16/48). Encloses copy of circular that the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs have sent to their diplomatic and consular representatives abroad concerning the Anglo-American policy on refugees.

Last Paper.

W6340

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

? ✕ C. Clutton
26/4

A. Walker
26/4

Amy R.
26/iv

(Action completed.)
A
24/4

(Index.)
M. N.
3/8

Next Paper.

W 6386

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

86

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE

103, Eaton Square,
LONDON, S.W.1.

April 20th, 1944.

W 6382

Dear Mr. Walker,

Some time ago, I talked to you about the creation by the President of the United States of a War Refugee Board, and I mentioned that the American Embassy to the Belgian Government had asked them to instruct their diplomatic and consular representatives abroad to cooperate with the American representatives in helping the refugees.

You very kindly told me what you had done in the matter, and, by your letter nº W 5119/16/48 of April 3rd, you sent me a copy of the declaration made on February 9th by Mr. Eden in the House of Commons endorsing the President's proclamation of January 22nd.

I thought that you might like to have a copy of the circular that our Ministry for Foreign Affairs have sent to our diplomatic and consular representatives abroad in this connection, and I am therefore enclosing a copy herewith.

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Baron Silvercruys

E.A. Walker, Esq.

MINISTERE
des
AFFAIRES ETRANGERES
et du
COMMERCE EXTERIEUR
de
BELGIQUE.

Don.C.
N°.2202/Pr/16/7
1 annexe
N°.d'ordre:

LONDRES, le 19 APR 1944

20 APR 1944

Monsieur SPAAK,
Ministre des Affaires Etrangères
et du Commerce Extérieur,
à
Messieurs les Agents diplomatiques et
consulaires de carrière à l'étranger.

Dans une déclaration du 22 janvier 1944 dont le texte est ci-joint, le Président des Etats-Unis d'Amérique a annoncé la constitution d'un organisme dénommé" WAR REFUGEE BOARD" qui aura pour mission d'aviser aux mesures propres à porter aux victimes de l'oppression ennemie toute l'aide, toute l'assistance, compatible avec la poursuite victorieuse de la guerre. Cette aide comportera des facilités destinées à permettre aux personnes menacées d'échapper aux dangers qui les visent, elle comprendra aussi leur entretien et leur établissement soit provisoire, soit définitif, en des pays où elles seront soustraites à toute menace de persécutions.-

Le War Refugee Board a reçu pour instructions de collaborer dans son action avec les organismes publics ou privés qui s'occupent des réfugiés, et notamment avec le Comité Intergouvernemental pour les Réfugiés, dont l'activité a repris récemment à Londres.-

L'action du Président Roosevelt concorde avec les préoccupations du Gouvernement belge en la matière.

Je vous prie de vouloir bien, quand l'occasion s'en présentera, entrer en contact avec vos Collègues américains et avec le personnel du War Refugee Board pour coopérer à l'oeuvre confiée à ce dernier.-

LE MINISTRE,
(s.) SPAAK.

File Number :—

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W 6386

Registry Number W 6386/16/48.

FROM Mr. Kingsley Rooker, Office of the British Representative with the French Committee of National Liberation, Algiers, to Mr Bandall.

Dated No.

Recorded in Registry 35/0/0. 11th Apr. 1944. 24th Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

His Majesty's Government's draft statement on refugees.

Refers to Foreign Office despatch 113 (W 4731/16/48).

Encloses copy of note dated 11th April to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs about His Majesty's Government's proposed statement containing a warning to the German Government over outrages committed at their instigation. Adds that they have omitted to specify the reason why the declaration was not a joint Anglo-American document.

Last Paper.

W 6282

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

pl = Dep U

? unnecessary to concern in sentence.

X C. Chesterton

26/4

Foreign Office 27 Apr 14.

F. Walker 26/4

Amb. 26/11

(Action completed.) pl 28/4

(Index.) M.H. 3/8

Next Paper.

W. 6409

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

W 6386

Office of the British Representative with the
French Committee of National Liberation,
Algiers.

35/0/0

11th April, 1944.

Dear Randall

With reference to your despatch No. 113 (W 4731/16/48) of the 28th March, I enclose a copy of a note which we have addressed to the Commissariat for Foreign Affairs about His Majesty's Government's proposed statement containing a warning to the German Government over outrages committed at their instigation.

We have omitted to specify the reasons why the declaration was not a joint Anglo-American document (para.1 of your despatch 133). The French are eager to seize on differences between London and Washington and we try to avoid stressing those that may exist. I hope that in this case you concur in our reticence.

Yours ever
Kingsley Rooker

Kingsley Rooker.

A.W.G.Randall, Esq., O.B.E.

Office of the British Representative with the
French Committee of National Liberation,
Algiers.

35/0/0
No.107

11th April, 1944.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform Your Excellency that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom desire to associate themselves with the declaration issued by the President of the United States on the 24th March conveying a warning to the German Government that outrages committed against Jews will be suitably punished after the war. His Majesty's Government have therefore prepared the enclosed draft statement, from which it will be seen that they reaffirm their intention of punishing outrages against Jewish and other victims of persecution at the hand of Germany and her satellites, while at the same time suggesting that good behaviour on the part of the latter or their officials may mitigate eventual retribution.

I have the honour to be,
with the highest consideration,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient

Servant,

(for the Ambassador.)

Acting Commissioner for
Foreign Affairs.

Draft Statement.

Evidence continues to reach the Governments of the United Nations that the Nazi policy of extermination has not been halted. Additions are still made to the long record of persecution, torture, and murder of many whose only offence is divergence from Nazi ideas in regard to race, religion or political belief. The persecution of the Jews has in particular been of unexampled horror and intensity. On this the United Nations, now that the hour of Germany's defeat grows ever nearer and more certain, can only repeat their detestation of Germany's crimes and their determination that all those guilty of them shall be brought to justice.

2. But apart from direct guilt there is still indirect participation in crime. Satellite Governments who expel citizens of their countries or those who have taken up residence with them to destinations named by Berlin must do so in full knowledge that such actions are tantamount to assisting in inhuman persecution or slaughter. This, too, will not be forgotten when the inevitable defeat of the arch-enemy of Europe comes about, and those governments or those citizens of satellite states who have imitated or participated in or connived at Nazi deeds will have to reckon with the stern judgment of the United Nations.

3. Happily there are individuals and even official authorities among the satellites who have resisted the evil German example and have not only declined to follow it, but have shown toleration and mercy. These things are known to the United Nations, and in the hop of encouraging such good deeds and increasing their number the Governments concerned declare that those who have followed the right path will also not be forgotten in the day of final reckoning. All who refuse to provide victims for Hitler's sacrifice, all who give shelter and help to those who are persecuted and threatened with death are hereby assured that their charity will be put to their credit.

4. The time of respite is short, but there is still opportunity for the merciful to multiply their acts of humanity, for the guilty to try to make amends for their deeds of shame by releasing their victims and making, so far as is possible, restitution to them. The Governments of the United Nations therefore call upon all the

/countries

countries allied with or subject to Germany to join in preventing further persecution and co-operate in protecting and saving the innocent. The United Nations are resolved themselves to continue to rescue and maintain so far as lies in their power all those menaced by the Nazi terror, until the day of liberation comes for all who now suffer from the burden of oppression and tyranny which Hitler's Government has laid on the peoples of Europe.

File Number :—

W 16

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W 6403

24 APR 1944

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Registry Number W 6403/16/48

TELEGRAM FROM
Lord Halifax
No. (Washington)
2055.
Dated 22nd April, 1944.
Received in Registry 24th April, 1944.

W: Refugees.

Sir H. Emerson's conversations with War Refugee Board

Transmits message for Mr. Randall from Sir H. Emerson requesting that Lord Winterton be informed that conversations with War Refugee Board have now finished.

Last Paper.

W 63 8C

References.

(Minutes.)

marked Personal.

Copy to Lord Winterton. M.P.-
C. Chenthorn
25/4

Copy sent to N. American Dept.
Amy K.
25/iv

Copy sent to Mr. Wilcox. Treasury.
" Mr. Bliss M.E.W.
6/5/44

Dft to
Ian L. Henderson
19/5.

Mr Bliss (M.E.W.) concurs
I. L. H.
19/5.

See within W'tel No. 3039 of 6/6

Copy { M.E.W. (Mr Bliss)
Treasury (Mr Wilcox)
T.W.E.D (Mr Henriques)

Ian L. Henderson
6/6

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

8) Lord Winterton M.P.
Dft 25.
* tel to Wash
No 4444 to
Ry 19
8) MEW (Mr Bliss)
Tsy (Mr Wilcox)
TWED (Mr Henriques)
Reed 20

(Action completed.) 24 APR 1944 29/24/4

(Index.) M.H. 15/8

(over)

Next Paper.

W 6576

25480 5/43 F.O.P.

N. American Dept

*8) Tayl (Mr Wilcox).
M Elo (Mr Bliss)
cmay16.

8) TWED (Mr Henriques)
may 10.

Wilcox 3039:-
8) MEW (Mr Bliss)
TSY (Mr Wilcox)
TWED (Mr Henriques)
June 9.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

W(IRLD)

W 6403

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[CYPHER] DEPARTMENTAL NO. 1

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Viscount Halifax
No. 2055
22nd April, 1944

D. 11.25 a.m. 23rd April, 1944
R. 10.10 p.m. 23rd April, 1944

g g g g g

Following from Emerson for Randall.

[Begins]

"Please inform Winterton that our conversations with the War Refugee Board are now finished. They have been very successful. There has been exchange of letters between the Director of the Board and myself defining respective spheres of activity so far as this is possible and giving assurances of active mutual co-operation. Members of the Board have been kept fully informed and have expressed warm gratification at the results.

Discussions on plan of credit operations are also complete. They have been between State Department and War Refugee Board on the one hand and myself as Director representing Inter-Governmental Committee only. It has been made quite clear that I have no authority to speak for the British Government. Following results are probable: American Government will take up with the British Government question of licences as distinct issue. My attitude in discussions was stated in previous message. My personal views have been given to the British Ambassador and I will explain them on return. As regards finance of credit plan there might be difficulties in American Government going to Congress for 6,000,000 dollars at the present time. It has therefore been agreed, subject to President's final approval, that American proposals in reply to British offer should be as follows: in the first place, plan should be financed up to £900,000 out of Inter-Governmental budget provisions of £1,000,000 for operational expenditure. If further funds are necessary I.G.C. will ask for supplementary grants from time to time which American Government will view favourably in the light of British offer. Next step will be reply by American Government to British offer and no action is required on this message, which is for information only and intended to convey probable developments.

Myron Taylor has kept in closest touch throughout and has given invaluable help. Malin has made a most valuable contribution to results.

My movements are as follows: New York up to 25th; Ottawa up to 28th; then Montreal until I return by air at the beginning of the month. Malin will be accessible, care of State Department until May 8th". [Ends].

OTP.

24 APR 1944 F.O. REGISTRY

94

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. W 6403/16/48

OUT FILE

I.L.H.

Draft.

H.M. Ambassador,
Washington,

Telegram. 4446

Cypher. 19/5/44

Departmental No. 1.

Copy to:

Mr. Bliss, M.E.W. for concurrence

Mr. Wilcox, Treasury

Mr. Henriques,
T.W.E.D.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

May, 1944.

Despatched 11.30 p.m. 19/5/44

Your telegram No. 2055 of 22nd April:
Sir Herbert Emerson's conversations with War Refugee Board.

Please ask State Department when we may expect an official reply, especially in regard to credit operations.

2. Question of licences can be dealt with separately and should present no difficulties.

I.L.H.

19/5

W 6403/16/48

OUT FILE

[CYPHER]

DEPARTMENTAL NO.1

FROM FOREIGN OFFICE TO WASHINGTON

No.4446

D. 11.30 p.m. 19th May 1944

19th May 1944

Ø Ø Ø

Your telegram No. 2055 [of 22nd April: Sir Herbert Emerson's conversations with War Refugee Board].

Please ask State Department when we may expect an official reply, especially in regard to credit operations.

2. Question of licences can be dealt with separately and should present no difficulties.

OTP

W Rets.

8 JUN 1944
W 6403 / 16 / 48
17 JUN 1944

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[EN CLAIR] DEPARTMENTAL NO.1.

INDEXED

FROM WASHINGTON TO FOREIGN OFFICE

Viscount Halifax D.(untimed) 6th June, 1944.
No. 3039
6th June, 1944. R.9.45 a.m. 7th June, 1944.

T T T T T W 6403 / 16 / 48.

Your telegram No. 4446.

We have been promised a reply by the State Department almost from day to day we are continuing to press for it and hope to be able to advise you very shortly.

7 JUN 1944
F.O. REGISTRY

File Number :—

W 1C

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

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W 6576

27 APR 1944

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Registry Number W 6576/16/48.

FROM Reverend E.A. Haviland. (Worthing Refugee Committee).

No.

Dated 24th Apr. 1944.

Received in Registry 27th Apr. 1944.

W:Refugees.

Worthing Refugee Committee : Proposal to set up War Refugee Board in United Kingdom.

Encloses resolutions passed by his Committee on the above subject.

Last Paper.

W6403

References.

(Minutes.)

This Card is being std. upon the Files may be thrown away

Entered.

Similar letters.

A.M.K.
29/iv

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

(Action completed.)

D/f
11/5

(Index.)

M. H.
3/8

Next Paper.

W 6598

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

Make official 97

WORTHING REFUGEE COMMITTEE.

President : SIR JOHN HOPE SIMPSON.

Hon. Treasurer :
Mr. K. N. STRANGE,
17, ARDSHEAL CLOSE,
BROADWATER, WORTHING,
SUSSEX.

Vice-Presidents :
Rev. E. A. HAVILAND, M.A.
Mrs. S. WALTER, J.P.
Mr. L. E. C. PECKOVER
Mr. A. G. LINFIELD
Mr. C. B. BARBER, J.P.

Hon. Secs. :
Mr. O. THORNYCROFT, O.B.E.,
Mrs. D. THORNYCROFT,
DUNHILL FARM HOUSE,
STEEP, PETERSFIELD,
HAMPSHIRE.

Hon. Children's Sec. :
Miss Y. de TERNANT,
41, CURZON AVENUE,
HORSHAM, SUSSEX.

W 6576
27 APR 1944

Rt Hon Anthony Eden M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster, London, S.W.1.

April 24th 1944

Dear Sir,

As a Committee formed with the primary object of saving as many lives as possible from the Nazi threat, we earnestly support the attached resolution, and hope you will do all in your power give it effect.

Yours faithfully

Edmund A- Haviland.

Chairman.

" We have noted with deep distress the continued persecution and [redacted]ssacre by the Nazis of millions of victims of diverse nationalities and races.

" We have noted especially that Adolf Hitler is still carrying out his declared policy of exterminating the entire Jewish population in all Nazi-controlled territories.

" While recognising that a final end can be put to these atrocities only by the victories of the Unitedv Nations and the liberation of Europe, we ask His Majesty's Government to speed up measures of rescue for all who can be saved,and to adopt the principle that, whatever other governments may do or leave undone, the British contribution to the work of rescue should be the speediest and most generous possible without delaying victory.

" In particular,we urge that an organisation with a full-time Executive Director, similar to the War Refugee Board recently set up by President Roosevelt, should be set up here, or alternatively that such a Director be attached to the existing Cabinet Sub-Committee, to ensure full co-operation with the Inter-Governmental Committee on Refugees and other bodies engaged upon the task of rescue; also that special officials should be attached to British Diplomatic Missions in countries which are able to assist refugees or receive them; also that the present utilitarian test of usefulness for the war effort applied to refugees seeking admission to this country should be supplemented by the humanitarian test of saving the largest numbers from Nazi persecution."

Resolution passed unanimously at a mass meeting at the Central Hall Westminster, Feb. 29th 1944.

File Number :—

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W 6578

27 APR 1944

Registry Number W 6578/16/48.

FROM Sir A. Clark-Kerr. (Moscow).

No. 150.

Dated 28th Mar. 1944.

Received in Registry 27th Apr. 1944.

W: Refugees.

Suggested Allied Declaration on German persecution.

Refers to Moscow telegram No. 845 of 28th March (W 4795/16/48).

Transmits copies of correspondence exchanged with Monsieur Molotov on the above subject.

Last Paper.

W6540

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

* Send reply
Central Dept
Northern " 1 Mar.
N. American "
P. J. D. 2.5.16
(M Scarlett) 3/5

V. Balfour
29/4

Secret 29/iv

(Action completed.)

3/5

(Index.)

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W-6693.

26130 P.O.P.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

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No. 150 (84/17/44)

Refs

HIS Majesty's Ambassador at Moscow presents his compliments to H.M.Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and has the honour to transmit to him the under-mentioned documents.

W 6578
27 APR 1944

British Embassy,
Moscow.

28th March, 1944.

Reference to previous correspondence:

W4493 W(Refs)

Moscow telegram No.845 of March 28th 1944.

Description of Enclosure.

Name and Date.	Subject.
1) Letter from H.E. to M. Molotov of 25th March 1944	Suggested allied denunciation of German persecution.
and	
2) Reply from M. Molotov to H.E. of 27th March, 1944.	
3) Ack. sent to M. Molotov March 28th	

3479 21484 (4)

(84/17/44)

BRITISH EMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

28th March, 1944.

(Dear M. Molotov),

I write to thank you for your letter of the 27th March in which you were good enough to inform me of the views of the Soviet Government on the subject of the proposed declaration about the responsibility of the Germans and their allies for the persecution of their victims.

2. I am informing my government of the views expressed in your letter.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) ARCHIBALD CLARK KERR.

His Excellency

Monsieur V. M. Molotov,

People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs,

Moscow.

Translation

Moscow. 27th March, 1944.

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 25th March 1944 enclosing draft of declaration with a warning to the Germans and their allies about their responsibility for persecutions of a racial, religious and political nature.

As you are aware, the Soviet Government have repeatedly, sometimes jointly with other allied countries, published such warnings to Hitlerite Germany and her European satellites. The last of such declarations, in which the Soviet Government took part jointly with the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, was that dated 2nd November 1943 made by President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill about the responsibility of the Hitlerites for their atrocities.

The Soviet Government consider that declarations on the above question by individual Governments of allied countries cannot achieve the aim and influence the cessation of inhuman atrocities which are being committed by Germany and her allies, which, as can be seen from your letter, is also recognised to some extent by the British Government. Moreover, I must tell you that on handing the text of the President's declaration, which has now been published in the press, to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, no wish was expressed anout any new declaration by the Soviet Government on this question.

In view of the above considerations and bearing in mind that the U.S.A. President's declaration on this matter has already been made public and that therefore a joint declaration on behalf of our three Governments cannot now be made, a separate declaration by the Soviet Government on this matter is not considered expedient.

Please accept, Mr.Ambassador, the assurance of my very high esteem.

(Sgd) V. MOLOTOV.

Mr. A.C.Kerr,
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary of
Great Britain,

Moscow.

COPY.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

MOSCOW.

(84/15/44)

March 25th, 1944.

URGENT.

(Dear Mr. Molotov),

My government understand that the Soviet Embassy in Washington received from the United States authorities the text of a statement which President Roosevelt issued yesterday condemning Nazi persecution, particularly of the Jews, warning the Germans and their allies that they will be punished for these crimes, and appealing to people of good-will in enemy countries to conceal potential victims.

2. My government, to whom the text of President Roosevelt's statement was also communicated, are of the opinion that a renewed denunciation of the Germans would not have much effect at the present time, but that a combined warning and appeal by the allies to the smaller Axis states would be useful, particularly in view of the German occupation of Hungary, where a very large number of Jews of all nationalities have apparently received comparatively favourable treatment. My government had accordingly prepared a draft declaration, of which the text is enclosed, to be issued so soon as President Roosevelt's statement was published.

3. Mr.Eden has asked me to enquire whether the Soviet Government see any objection to this proposal, and whether they are proposing to make a parallel declaration on their own account. My government would greatly welcome a parallel statement by the Soviet Government as a sign of solidarity in this question between the three Allies, but as President Roosevelt's declaration has now been published, they are most anxious to take very early decision. If they publish a declaration on their own account only, the draft would, of course, be modified so as not to commit other governments.

(Yours sincerely)

(Signed) ARCHIBALD CLARK KERR.

His Excellency,
Monsieur V. M. Molotov,
People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs,
Moscow.

COPY.

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TEXT OF PROPOSED DECLARATION.

Evidence continues to reach the Governments of the United Nations that the Nazi policy of extermination has not halted. Additions are still made to the long record of persecution, torture and murder of many whose only offence is divergence from Nazi ideas in regard to race, religion or political belief. On this the United Nations, now that the hour of Germany's defeat grows ever nearer and more certain, can only repeat their detestation of Germany's crimes and their determination that all those guilty of them shall be brought to justice.

2. But apart from direct guilt there is still indirect participation in crime. The satellite governments who expel citizens of their countries, or those who have taken up residence with them, to destinations named by Berlin must do so in full knowledge that such actions are tantamount to assisting in inhuman persecution or slaughter. This, too, will not be forgotten when the inevitable defeat of the arch-enemy of Europe comes about and those governments or those citizens of satellite states who have initiated or participated in or connived at Nazi deeds will have to reckon with the stern judgement of the United Nations.

3. Happily there are individuals and official authorities among the satellites who have resisted evil German example and have not only declined to follow it but have shown toleration and mercy. These things are known to the United Nations and in the hope of encouraging such good deeds and increasing their number the governments concerned declare that those who have followed the right path will also not be forgotten in the day of final reckoning. All who refuse to provide victims for Hitler's sacrifice, all who give shelter and help to those who are persecuted and threatened with death are hereby assured that their charity will be put to their credit.

4. The time of respite is short, but there is still opportunity for the merciful to multiply their acts of humanity, for the guilty to try to make amends for their deeds of shame by releasing their victims and making, so far as is possible, restitution to them. The Governments of the United Nations therefore call upon all countries allied with or subject to Germany to join in preventing further persecution and cooperate in protecting and saving the innocent. The United Nations are resolved themselves to continue to rescue and maintain so far as lies in their power all those menaced by Nazi terror, until the day of liberation comes for all who now suffer from the burden of oppression and tyranny which Hitler's government has laid on the peoples of Europe.

File Number :—

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GENERAL.

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Registry Number W 6693/16/48.

FROM India Office.

No.

Dated 27th Apr.1944.

Received in Registry 29th Apr.1944.

Establishment of a War Refugee Board.

Transmits copy of aide-memoire dated New Delhi, 21st February, covering copy of an executive order issued by the President of the United States on 22nd January regarding the establishment of a War Refugee Board to effectuate the United States Government's intention to take all measures within its power to rescue Jewish and other persecuted minorities who are in imminent danger of death at the hands of the enemy.

Last Paper.

W6548

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Total number of refugees in India is now given as 5,10,874. An increase of 1,10,874 on the figure given in the answer to the P.Q. on 7/4/43. As India is a member of the U.S.C. it seems rather unnecessary for the U.S.A. to make enquiries about refugee measures there from the Government of India —

C. Chenthorn

The U.S. Govt: made a circular enquiry of every Govt. with which they are in relation. 1/5

A.W.G.R.

X

1/V

(Action completed.)

D

2/5

(Index.)

M.H

3/5

Next Paper.

W.6912.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

AIDE-MEMOIRE

There is enclosed a copy of an executive order issued by the President of the United States on January 22, 1944, regarding the establishment of a War Refugee Board to effectuate the United States Government's intention to take all measures within its power to rescue Jewish and other persecuted minorities who are in imminent danger of death at the hands of the enemy.

In this connection, information as to the approximate number of refugees of the several races and nationalities which have been given haven in India would be appreciated. It would also be helpful to know to what extent such refugees have recently immigrated to India or have been accommodated in India while en route elsewhere. An expression of the Government of India's attitude toward immigration into India of such refugees, and an indication to what extent the Government of India would be able to cooperate in an effort to rescue these persecuted minorities would be most welcome.

(Itd.)J. P. S.

New Delhi,
February 21, 1944

TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

January 22, 1944

"Whereas it is the policy of this Government to take all measures within its power to rescue the victims of enemy oppression who are in imminent danger of death and otherwise to afford such victims all possible relief and assistance consistent with the successful prosecution of the war. Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Statutes of the United States, as President of the United States and as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, and in order to effectuate with all possible speed the rescue and relief of such victims of enemy oppression, it is hereby ordered as follows:-

/1.

1. There is established in the Executive Office of the President a WAR REFUGEE BOARD (hereinafter referred to as the Board). The Board shall consist of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of War. The Board may request the heads of other agencies or departments to participate in its deliberations whenever matters specially affecting such agencies or departments are under consideration.

2. The Board shall be charged with the responsibility for seeing that the policy of the Government, as stated in the preamble, is carried out. The functions of the Board shall include without limitation the development of plans and programs and the inauguration of specific measures for; A. The rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of the victims of enemy oppression, and, B. The establishment of havens of temporary refuge for such victims. To this end the Board, through appropriate channels, shall take the necessary steps to enlist the cooperation of foreign governments and obtain their participation in the execution of such plans and programs.

3. It shall be the duty of the State, Treasury and War Departments within their respective spheres, to execute the request of the Board, the plans and programs so developed and the..... It shall be the duty of the heads of all agencies and departments to supply or obtain for the Board such information and to extend to the Board such supplies, shipping and other necessary assistance and facilities as the Board may require in carrying out the provisions of this order. The State Department shall appoint special Attache with diplomatic status, on the recommendation of the Board, to be stationed abroad in places where it is likely that assistance can be rendered to War Refugees, the duties and responsibilities of such Attaches to be defined by the Board in consultation with the State Department.

4. The Board and the State, Treasury and War Departments are authorized to accept the services or contributions of any private person, private organizations,

/state

state agencies, or agencies of foreign governments in carrying out the purposes of this order. The Board shall cooperate with all existing and future international organizations concerned with the problems of refugee rescue, maintenance, transportation, relief, rehabilitation, and resettlement.

5. To the extent possible the Board shall realize the personnel, supplies, facilities and services of the State, Treasury and War Departments. In addition the Board, within the limits of funds which may be made available, may employ necessary personnel without regard for the Civil Service Laws and Regulations and the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, and make provisions for supplies, facilities and services necessary to discharge the responsibilities. The Board shall appoint an Executive Director who shall serve as its principal Executive Officer. It shall be the duty of the Executive Director to arrange for the prompt execution of the plans and programs developed and the measures inaugurated by the Board, to supervise the activities of the special Attaches and to submit frequent reports to the Board on the steps taken for the rescue and relief of war refugees.

6. The Board shall be directly responsible to the President in carrying out the policy of this Governments, as stated in the Preamble, and the Board shall report to him at frequent intervals concerning the steps taken for the rescue and relief of war refugees and shall make such recommendations as the Board may deem appropriate for further action to overcome any difficulties encountered in the rescue and relief of war refugees."

711.5

THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

New Delhi

No.60 March 22, 1944

The Secretary to the Government of India
in the External Affairs Department,
New Delhi.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the Mission's aide-memoire dated February 21, 1944 and initialled "J. P. S." which confirmed a conversation between Mr. Speer of the Mission and Captain Fry of the External Affairs Department regarding the extent to which Jewish and other persecuted minorities have been given haven in India. An expression of the Government of India's attitude toward immigration into India of such refugees and an indication to what extent the Government of India would be able to cooperate in an effort to rescue these persecuted minorities were also requested.

In as much as my government is most anxious to have the benefit of the information above described, I should greatly appreciate an indication as to when the Mission may expect to receive a reply to the questions raised in the aide-memoire under reference.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

Sd/- George R. Merrell

Secretary in Charge.

No.29-N/44.

From

The Secretary to the Government of India
in the External Affairs Department.

To

The Secretary in charge of the
office of the Personal Representative
of the President of the United States
of America to India, New Delhi.

Dated New Delhi, the 28th March 1944.

Subject:- Refugees in India.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to your letter No.60, dated the 22nd March 1944, and to enclose a statement showing the approximate number of refugees, with their nationalities, who have been given refuge in India since the outbreak of hostilities. In addition there is the possibility of a further liability for 8,000 additional Poles, while the advance of the Allied armies into Burma may well result in a renewed flow of refugees from Burma into India.

2. India's refugee problem is probably greater than that of any other allied or neutral country, and in the light of the present food and accommodation problems and the general economic situation in this country, the Government of India feel that, despite the utmost goodwill, they are not in a position to accept more refugees from elsewhere.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Sd/- S.I.Hasan.

for Secretary to the Government of India.

BS/28-3

Statement showing the approximate number and nationality of refugees who have been given refuge in India since the outbreak of the present hostilities.

Nationality.	Number.
British or British protected.	5,06,991.
Danish.	20.
Dutch.	45.
Polish.	3,552.
Hungarian.	5.
Czech.	33.
Russian.	24.
American.	95.
Portuguese.	4.
French.	38.
Latvian.	1.
Spanish.	1.
Yugoslav.	3.
Austrian.	5.
Japanese (British by marriage).	1.
Lebanese.	1.
Swiss.	18.
Norwegian.	5.
Greek.	8.
Swedish.	8.
German Jew.	3.
German (British by marriage).	2.
Finn.	3.
Philippino.	5.
Italian (British naturalised).	1.
German.	2.
Total.	5,10,874.

File Number :—

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REFUGEES

W 6912

3 MAY 1944

111

Registry Number } W 6912/16/48

FROM Washington Chancery to Refugee Department.

No.

Dated 24th April, 1944

Received in Registry } 3rd May, 1944.

General : Refugees.

Activities of the War Refugee Board.

Transmits copy of extract from New York Times dated 19th April reporting the consideration of the establishment of a system of "free ports" in the United States for the admission of war refugees who are barred from entrance by immigration laws and the activities of the War Refugee Board in connexion with rescue of refugees from occupied countries via Turkey.

Last Paper.

W6693

References.

(*Print.*)

(*How disposed of.*)

Per Mr Hadow (Washington) from Mr Henderson

May 8.

(*Minutes.*)

It would be interesting to have further details about the thousands of homeless persons rescued through WRB efforts from Nazi occupied countries' - If a flood of refugees from the Balkans ~~does~~ does materialise it would be a great advantage to have a system of "free ports" in the U.S.A to receive them after the Palestine quota is filled - Perhaps Mr Henderson could say whether the three boat loads of refugees of 250 each taken from Constantza to Istanbul & removed from there to Palestine by rail were rescued by the W.R.B - I rather thought we had arranged it through Berne & Angora & not Washington.

C. Chetham

4/5

(*Action completed.*) 9/5

(*Index.*) M.H. 3/8

Next Paper.

W 7471.

C9197.

The use of the Michael and Marriage etc. arranged by the Jewish Agency representation in connection

with H.M. Embassy. The "Bella Citta" was chartered by the I.R.C.

The reference to Transvaistia are equally untrue.

Ian L. Henderson

6/5:

Let us print this out to Washington (Mr. Hooper).

AWDR

6/V

Dft.

Ian L. Henderson

6/5

I.L.H.

6/5

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

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Refs

Forwarded with the Compliments

of the British Embassy,

Washington, D. C.

W 6912

3 MAY 1944

Refugee Dept.,
Foreign Office,
London. S.W.1.

24th April, 1944.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. W 6912/16/48

I.L.H.

Draft. [illegible]

Mr. Hayter,
British Embassy,
Washington.

(From Mr. Henderson)

174

FOREIGN OFFICE (Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's, S.W.1.
8 May, 1944.

Dear William,

Would you please refer to a cutting from the "New York Times" of April 19th headed "'Free Ports' to Admit Refugees May Be Set Up Under U.S. Plan" and in particular to the statements made under ths sub-heading "Thousands Reported Rescued". It may interest you to know, for the information of the Embassy only, that the use of the vessels "Milka" and "Maritza" was arranged by the Jewish Agency representative in Turkey in co-operation with our Embassy, and that the "Bella Citta" was chartered by the International Red Cross.

The references to Transnistria are equally untrue.

Yours ever,

I.L.H.

(D. L. Henderson) 6/5

(W 6912/16/48)

FOREIGN OFFICE
(Refugee Department),
3, Cleveland Row,
St. James's,
S.W.1.

8th May, 1944.

Dear William,

Would you please refer to a cutting from the "New York Times" of the 19th April headed "'Free Ports' to Admit Refugees May Be Set Up Under "U.S. Plan" and in particular to the statements made under the sub-heading "Thousands Reported Rescued". It may interest you to know, for the information of the Embassy only, that the use of the vessels "Milka" and "Maritza" was arranged by the Jewish Agency representative in Turkey in co-operation with our Embassy, and that the "Bella Citta" was chartered by the International Red Cross.

The references to Transnistria are equally untrue.

Yours ever,

(I.L. Henderson)

W.G. Hayter, Esq.,
Washington.

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GENERAL

REFUGEES

W 7471

10 MAY 1944

116

Registry Number W 7471/16/48

FROM British Embassy, (Washington)

No.

Dated 1st May:1944

Received in Registry 10th May:1944

W : Refugees.

Appointment of War Refugee Board representative in Lisbon.

Transmits copy of memorandum No. 4/17/44 of J.T.A. News regarding the appointment of a War Refugee Board representative in Lisbon to speed the rescue of Jews from Occupied Europe.

Last Paper.

W6912

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

Central Dept. 14/5.

C. Cheetham
12/5.

A.M.S.R.
13/V.

(Action completed.) 8d 16/5

(Index.) M. H. 3/8

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W7570

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS PAGE.

[17

W 7471
10 MAY 1944

Forwarded with the Compliments

of the British Embassy,

Washington, D. C.

Eastern Department,
Foreign Office,
LONDON. S.W.1.

May 1st, 1944.

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GWD

COPY.

J.T.A. NEWS 4/17/44.

WAR REFUGEE BOARD APPOINTS REPRESENTATIVE IN LISBON TO SPEED RESCUE OF JEWS.

WASHINGTON, April 16. (JTA). The War Refugee Board has appointed Dr. Robert C. Dexter as special representative in Portugal, Executive Director John W. Pehle announced to-day.

Dexter, acting commissioner for Europe of the Unitarian Service Committee, has been in Lisbon since the fall of 1942. As special attache to the legation there, he will work with public and private agencies in developing programs and implementing measures for the rescue, transportation, maintenance and relief of refugees, according to the announcement.

Dexter spent three months in Europe surveying refugee needs in 1940. At that time he visited 13 countries and was instrumental in securing the release of 1,500 prisoners in Hungary. In 1938 he was head of the commission for service in Czecho-Slovakia and was decorated by the Czech Government-in-Exile for his work with Czech refugees.

Before the war he travelled in Hungary and Rumania and attended many sessions of the Assembly and Council of the League of Nations in Geneva. A graduate of Brown University, Dexter was for 10 years a social worker in the United States and Canada and taught social and political science at Skidmore College and Clark University. In 1926 he was one of 50 university professors sent to the Hague and Germany by the Carnegie Endowment.

File Number :—

W 16

GENERAL.

REFUGEES

1944